EAST BAY EXPRESS

MARCH 31 APRIL 6 2010 [illegible] EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

It's a Matter of Culture

In **Taste** Fizzy and fermented kombucha may or may not save your life

By Anneli Rufus

FOOD — 28
The Alley

MUSIC — [illegible]

VIDYA'S NEXT PHASE

Prasant Radhakrishnan takes his South Indian-jazz blend to a new level of intricacy

By [illegible]

At age thirteen, saxophonist Prasant Radhakrishnan entered a kind of journeyman-apprenticeship that doesn't really exist these days. It didn't really exist back in 1996, either — but the stars just happened to align for Radhakrishnan, and he got "discovered" the old fashioned way. He was a second-generation kid living in Phoenix where he played in the middle-school band. A family friend invited him over to her house to meet Kadri Gopalnath, a famous practitioner of South Indian carnatic music who happened to be touring in Phoenix. They clicked, and Gopalnath took him on as a disciple, housed him in Mangalore, India, for four summers, and subjected him to a rigorous daily routine. Within four years, he had developed a style of music with no historical antecedent. *Story [illegible]*

IN SMALL BUSINESS MONTHLY

Liquor Tax Hammers Brewers

A tax designed to make "alcopops" too expensive for teens has instead hurt makers of craft beers.

Green Tech Pioneers

Five companies to watch as the East Bay becomes a capital of environment technology.

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On the Cover *Alex Hozven of Berkeley's Cultured Pickle Shop. Photo by Sonya Revell.*

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
THE PROPAGATOR

LETTERS

[illegible]

Hold City Staff Accountable

While your article was generally good, you missed a key point. Why did Piedmont staff let the project continue well into the red knowing that the only option this would lead to would be taxpayers would have to bail out the district? There was time for Grote to stop the work and let the geotechnical work and inform Piedmont Hills that the money had run out. Grote did neither. A recent appeals court ruling in Marin County made it clear the benefits of undergrounding are special benefits and are to be paid for by those receiving the special benefits. Another important issue missed in your article: City Attorney Peyton has not and will not rule on the legality of this action by the city.

I am attaching a financial analysis taken from figures given to me by city officials. By Sept. 21 all funds are gone, yet staff did not stop to even look at required geotechnical reports for any project in Piedmont. Nor did they stop the work or do any basic geotechnical research or publicly contact Piedmont Hills Utility District. This is new construction at 61 Glen Alpine, right in the middle of some of the worst bedrock. When you discover bedrock that allows trenching down to eight feet a day, why do you let it go forward when all monies have been expended and you are stating, as Grote did, that you cannot do a supplemental bond?

Rick Schiller, Piedmont

Why Didn't They Stop It?

The real story here is that five weeks after the project started (with five months to go), the projected cost overruns exceeded the allotted funds for the project. Knowing this, the city administration authorized the project going forward in full knowledge that it would be spending unauthorized funds. The mayor was informed of these overruns but didn't go to the city council or the public with this for three months, at which point the project had spent $465K more than it had. At that point, so much money had already been spent that it would have been more costly to stop the project than to complete it.

There is a school of thought that this is exactly what the mayor had planned, since he was bound and determined to complete this project regardless of what it might cost. Further, there was the sense that a more realistic bid wouldn't have been passed by the residents, so a low bid was accepted with a "rock clause" that allowed the contractor to bill time and materials if the project hit the rock that everyone knew was there. So essentially, this project benefitted 144 of the most wealthy residents of the city using city funds for private gain. How did the city administrator and the mayor allow this to happen when they could have stopped it?

Dan Phillips, Piedmont

[illegible] News 3/17

Residents Should Be Proud

I'm writing to correct some errors in Tessa Stuart's article about the community visioning process for the Albany waterfront.

1. The city of Albany decided to undertake the process long before Magna Entertainment Corporation filed for bankruptcy. The intent was never to develop a "blueprint" for the property owner to "embrace." The property owner had circulated two unpopular plans, so the city knew what Magna wanted. The city hoped to learn what residents want, especially since Measure C requires their vote if the owner of Golden Gate Fields (GGF) seeks to deviate from existing waterfront zoning.

2. The process was not made up of "town-hall-style meetings" in which residents "weighed in on the report." In the first round of sessions, residents worked in small groups to develop their own site concepts based on a range of information about land uses and economic implications. In a set of following sessions, residents evaluated conceptual scenarios drawn directly from those ideas and the input of relevant experts. The report will be presented to the community on April 5.

3. Participation was focused on Albany residents because the process was paid for by the city and aimed to reach its residents, who have voting power to decide on the property's zoning and whose lives are most impacted by what happens at the waterfront. Special sessions were held for [illegible] residents.

4. Ms. Stuart notes that "some members of the community" were dissatisfied — but quotes a person who does not live in Albany. She should have reached out to residents who participated in the process or reviewed the overwhelmingly positive evaluations, rather than citing the opinion of one non-Albany resident.

5. There is no disconnect between the city of Albany and FTA regarding participation of the property owner. As explained to Ms. Stuart, two senior executives from GGF were interviewed at length in the early stages of the process. GGF officials expressed interest in the findings, but did not feel that further involvement was necessary.

Nearly one of every nine adult Albany residents (1,200+ people) participated in Voices to Vision — an indication of the community's commitment to the process and concern about the future of the waterfront. Albany should be proud of this unprecedented accomplishment and not called upon to defend its decision to place the opinions of residents ahead of corporate interests.

Fern Tiger, President, Fern Tiger Associates

Different Robert

You say "We're adamantly opposed," then Mayor Robert Cheasty told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 2005. "We're going to fight. We just can't roll over for this." But I believe that Robert Good was mayor of Albany in 2005, not Cheasty. Cheasty is a former mayor but not in recent history. You also fail to include a quote from the Albany Waterfront Coalition, which favored Caruso's plan or something similar, and imply that everyone in Albany was against Caruso's plan. I was against it myself but there were people who were for it. While the question of whether the visioning process will do any good is a legitimate one, I think your article takes a rather negative bent. Given that the residents of Albany have to approve any development, I don't think it matters whether GGF was involved. This is a long-term vision for whoever may develop the property in the future so that when they submit a plan at least it will be somewhat in line with what residents have in mind.

[illegible], Albany

Correction

"A Bad Bet on Golden Gate Fields?" (News, 3/17) inaccurately stated that Robert Cheasty was mayor of Albany in 2005. The quote was supplied in 2005, and Cheasty was a former mayor of Albany at that time.

[illegible]

It's Complicated

Robert Gammon's column is a one-sided mess. He would like to portray the changes to zoning in West Berkeley as a fight between NIMBYs and eco-loving developers. He seems outraged that people who live and work here would be concerned about developers turning these neighborhoods into something more like Silicon Valley. He suggests that Berkeley can help with global warming by "accommodating condos, apartments, and lofts" in the very small part of town that has successfully maintained a mixed-use profile of residents, businesses, and artists through thoughtful zoning policy. Gammon's piece coincides with an article published the very next day about West Berkeley in the *Wall Street Journal*. The fact that a national news organization recognizes this issue as newsworthy attests to the fact that many cities are struggling with these issues. As citizens, we need more from journalists than attack pieces on community groups.

George Chittenden
West Berkeley business owner

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CRIME IS DOWN, BUT DELLUMS ISN'T UP

Oakland's mayor revamped the police department, but hasn't received credit for the substantial decrease in crime

By Robert Gammon

Oakland's crime problem spiraled out of control in the last two years of Jerry Brown's administration. And then it remained high in 2007 and 2008 during Ron Dellums' first two years as mayor of Oakland. Brown, however, managed to escape criticism for failing to slow the crime wave, while Dellums was excoriated for it — despite the fact that his crime numbers were never as bad as Brown's. And now, Oakland's crime wave appears to be over, yet Dellums isn't getting credit for that either, even though there's an argument to be made that the decisions made on his watch are partially responsible.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that March marked the fifteenth straight month of declines. Homicides have plummeted 26 percent, aggravated assaults have dropped 31 percent, rapes are down 45 percent, robberies have declined 27 percent, and thefts have decreased by 38 percent.

If those numbers hold up for the rest of the year, it will represent the biggest turnaround in crime since the crack epidemic ended in the early 1990s. So what did Dellums do? For starters, his administration reorganized the police department and reassigned officers to geographic areas, increasing both accountability and public service. He also hired and trained more cops and won the right to switch the department to twelve-hour shifts, giving commanders greater flexibility to assign more cops to work evenings when most crime occurs. And finally, he replaced Brown's ineffective police chief Wayne Tucker with Anthony Batts, a cop with a proven track record who appears to be a perfect fit for Oakland.

To deny that these decisions played a role in Oakland's crime drop is akin to denying that effective policing works. And it seems absurd to blame a mayor for a high crime rate and then not give him credit when crime decreases dramatically — after he made decisions specifically designed to do just that. Dellums' first term has had its shortcomings, but crime no longer appears to be one of them.

The continuing recession, however, is resulting in much lower city tax revenues, which could force Oakland to lay off police officers and firefighters to bridge a projected $43 million budget gap next year. As a result, the city is considering a new parcel tax that would raise about $18 million annually for public safety. The money would not be used to hire new cops and firefighters, but to prevent them from losing their jobs.

However, Councilman Ignacio De La Fuente has already come out against the parcel tax measure, calling it a "cop-out," according to the *Oakland Tribune*. He argues that the city needs to cut more waste and become more efficient before going to voters with another tax measure, the *Chronicle* reports.

It's hard to argue that Oakland's government is without waste and inefficiency, but fixing those problems likely won't generate the money needed to solve the city's budget woes. That's because most city employees have already taken a pay cut, and the city had to slash services dramatically last year to fix a previous budget problem. Plus, convincing police and firefighter unions to agree to more wage concessions is highly unlikely.

Oakland also faces the problems created by the previous public safety initiative, Measure Y. That poorly written law says the city can't just lay off a few cops. Instead, it requires that any layoff result in at least sixty officers losing their jobs. So while raising taxes during a recession is not normally a smart idea, Oakland appears to have little choice but to try.

Recycling Fee Could Backfire

Speaking of raising revenues, the City of Berkeley may begin charging property owners for curbside recycling in an effort to close a large budget gap of its own, the *Chron* reports. Berkeley trash collection revenues have declined in recent years in part because residents are recycling more. However, a new recycling fee could backfire.

Charging for curbside recycling could prove to be an eco-disincentive on several fronts. First, it could prompt residents to recycle less in order to avoid the new fees. It also could give residents a financial incentive to get in their cars and drive their recyclables to the West Berkeley transfer station, thereby creating more car trips and greenhouse gas emissions. And finally, a new fee could induce residents to drive their recyclables to private recycling centers that pay for the products, and thus harm Berkeley's ability to meet its climate-change goals.

Marijuana Roundup

Tax Cannabis 2010, the pot legalization petition financed by Richard Lee, the founder of Oaksterdam University in Oakland, gathered enough signatures to qualify for the November statewide ballot. ... But it's unclear whether the measure will prohibit employers from firing workers who use marijuana. Current California law allows employers to terminate employees who use medical cannabis, the *Sacramento Bee* reported. ... The East Bay's purge of pot clubs continued last week when Walnut Creek's only dispensary, C3 Medical Cannabis Collective, closed after city officials said pot clubs were not allowed within city limits.

Three-Dot Roundup

Chris Cohan, owner of the Golden State Warriors, put the Oakland-based basketball team up for sale. Oracle CEO Larry Ellison, a billionaire Warriors fan, is considered the frontrunner to buy the team. ... State agriculture officials announced that they have abandoned plans to reinstate their controversial aerial-spray program for the light brown apple moth. However, environmentalists are concerned about the state's intention to use pesticide-laced "ground spray" and "twist ties" in people's backyards and on public school grounds. ●

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ECO WATCH

POLL REVEALS ECO-DISCONNECT

Oakland homeowners are more interested in costly ways to green their homes than cheaper, practical solutions.

By Kristy Evans

Oakland residents appear to have a strong interest in cutting-edge environmental conservation and energy efficiency measures for their homes, according to a recent poll. However, the poll, conducted by Greening Oakland Homes, also reveals an apparent gap between what homeowners were most interested in and what's practical to actually do to make their houses greener.

For example, 68 percent of homeowners said they were "very interested" in grey-water and rainwater collection for their houses and 62 percent were very interested in solar power. But far fewer respondents expressed the same interest in upgrading to more energy-efficient furnaces (24 percent), low-flow toilets (33 percent), or low-flow showers (27 percent).

Although many residents may have already implemented these cheaper and easier eco-friendly solutions, the poll appears to indicate that respondents' strong interest in expensive greening projects may be the result of what they read in the newspaper or online or see on television. "Anything that's been promoted is clearly influencing people's answers," said researcher Debby Richman, who conducted the survey.

Richman found the survey participants through multiple sources, but most were part of a group of volunteers for Montclair Community Action who had previously done phone banking for the Obama campaign. Although Richman acknowledges that this is not an entirely representative group, she believes the survey results are still a good starting point for understanding the interests of Oakland homeowners.

For example, Richman speculated that the strong interest in weather stripping, leak detection, and energy-efficient windows may be because a lot of Oakland homes are old and drafty. Nonetheless, homeowners sometimes ignore smaller, cheaper things they can do to lessen their environmental footprint after they discover how costly some eco-upgrades are. "People assume this is very expensive to do so they just don't do anything," Richman noted.

Still, Greening Oakland Homes Director Laura Andersen said she was pleased and surprised about how many respondents said they were "very interested" in home-energy audits — 54 percent. One of the missions of Greening Oakland Homes, which is conducting outreach at local street fairs, is to make sure homeowners are aware of how to access auditing services, and which things they can check themselves. "Energy and water conservation is often all about finding the energy and water leaks and doing some basic things to improve conservation," Andersen explained. ●

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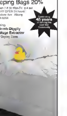

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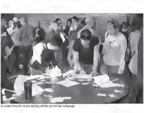

A scene from the event kicking off the parcel tax campaign.

ALAMEDA TAX FACES TOUGH FIGHT

The school district has a $7 million hole but small business and commercial property owners say a new tax is unfair

By Mi Lele Ellson

On a fine spring day in March 2008, supporters of a parcel tax for Alameda's schools kicked off their campaign by lining Park Street with children in garbage cans — a symbol of the educational opportunities that they felt would otherwise be thrown away. Their campaign to pass the tax, dubbed Measure H, raised little organized opposition until its final weeks, when some property and business owners realized they'd be paying far more than the $120 annual bill homeowners would face.

Two years later, Alameda Unified is again headed to the ballot box, this time to ask for a replacement tax that would generate double the money its existing parcel taxes net each year. And though the garbage cans are long gone, a host of small business and property owners who are still upset about Measure H remain.

Their long-simmering anger is driving plans to fight the new tax, even as some acknowledge Alameda's schools need the money, and even though passage would offer many of them lower tax bills. "It passed with very few votes last time," said Ed Hirshberg, a plaintiff in one of two lawsuits to invalidate the tax and an active member of Alamedans for Fair Taxation, a group of businesses and property owners that opposes the tax, which Hirshberg said has more than 200 members. "This year, I don't think it would stand a chance."

Almost no one denies that the state's financial tailspin has been a disaster for schools — a disaster that Alameda Unified has been able to sidestep with the aid of its existing parcel taxes, which generate $7.3 million a year. The taxes have helped pay for teachers and coaches who offer music, athletics and Advanced Placement classes, plus support staff offering counseling, technology and other services.

But a series of post-Measure H cuts to state funding — which covers more than three-quarters of Alameda Unified's budget — will leave the district with an anticipated $7 million hole in the 2010-11 school year. The deficit could grow to $17 million when the district's existing parcel taxes sunset in three years, district officials have said. So in the summer of 2009, they began exploring options for replacing them.

At the same time, the plaintiff in one of the lawsuits, yacht merchant and landowner John Beery, agreed to help the district set up a community group to determine the structure for the new tax, a move district officials and tax supporters have characterized as an effort to make the tax fairer to small businesses. Although Beery ultimately disagreed with the outcome, the group voted 8-3 to recommend that the district pursue another split roll tax. On March 15, the Board of Education voted 4-1 to put it on the ballot.

The replacement tax will charge homeowners $659 a year for eight years, more than twice the current amount. If the tax gains the support of two-thirds of voters who submit a mail ballot by June 22, commercial property owners will pay 13 cents per square foot of lot, down from the 15 cents per foot they pay under Measure H, with the same $9,500 cap. Measure H has now. Measure H remains in effect while the lawsuits filed against it make their way through the courts. Measure A, the district's other parcel tax, charges all property owners a flat rate of $189 per parcel. Seniors and disabled people can request exemptions from the tax.

The school district's move toward a split roll tax infuriated small business and property owners who felt they were unfairly singled out by Measure H because they lacked the political power to stop it. According to school district figures, Alameda has more than 16,000 residential parcels on the tax rolls and just 853 commercial properties.

Small business and property owners have complained that the tax places an outsized burden on them, one they can't afford during a steep recession. For the 2008-09 school year, commercial property owners and businesses paid more than $2.6 million toward the tax, while residents paid just under $.2 million.

Donna Layburn, who owns the Alameda Marketplace, said Measure H costs her an additional $7,300 a year because the property she leases — which includes several parking lots — is spread across several parcels. Layburn, like many business owners, operates under a lease that allows her landlord to pass on costs like tax increases to her. Layburn also is now negotiating for another parking lot, and if she is successful, her Measure H taxes will increase by another $3,000 a year, she said. "I know the schools are hurting and need money," said Layburn, who said she's not one of the business owners who are angry about the tax. "It is a lot of money for small businesses like ours."

Hirshberg and his fellow plaintiffs argued that Measure H is illegal because it is not uniformly applied, though the judge in that case indicated he plans to rule against them when he issues his ruling in April or May. Hirshberg said they declined to participate in the advisory group because they didn't think it would be successful and to do so would have eliminated their appeal rights, which they plan to exercise.

Hirshberg also said he would have supported the new tax if it were uniform, even if it means he would get a bigger tax bill. He asked the school board to instead consider a uniform square-foot charge for each lot.

The school district's move toward a split-roll tax infuriated small business and property owners, who felt they were unfairly singled out by Measure H

But the replacement tax's proponents said none of the tax structures available to them are fair to everyone. And politically, they faced a Hobson's choice. Charging everyone the same amount of money would result in an $800-a-year tax, which they said would not be palatable to homeowners and would place almost the entire burden of the tax — 95 percent — on them.

A flat rate also could harm some local businesses that sit on large plots of land, and could create a financial incentive for other major landowners to fight the tax, while also hurting lower-income homeowners because their houses, proponents said, are often on larger lots than their wealthier neighbors. "We couldn't get the revenue any other way," said school board Trustee Tracy Jensen, who is also on the committee that is working to pass the tax.

Jensen and others contend the proposed tax is fairer than the current taxes. More than half of Alameda's commercial property owners or the business owners who rent from them will see their parcel tax costs drop by 25 percent or more, they said. And the replacement tax would lower commercial property owners' total parcel tax burden by about half.

But Hirshberg and others don't see it that way. And they have been successful in convincing some onetime supporters not to back the new tax. The Alameda Association of Realtors — which supported Measure H — is not taking an official position on the new tax, said President Rob Platt. "We understand the schools are important," he said. "However, we're not comfortable with the structure of the tax." ●

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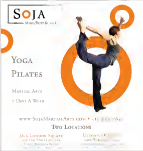
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OAKLAND'S ARTS FACE DEEP CUTS

The city's proposed 50-percent funding cuts could have far-reaching impacts on the burgeoning local arts scene

By Kathleen Wentz

Facing a $30 million budget shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year, the Oakland City Council will likely make some tough choices this week during its midcycle budget review process. One of the most severe is a proposed 50 percent reduction in the city's Cultural Funding Program.

The Cultural Funding Program provides about $1 million in grants annually to arts organizations and artists, funding operations, individual art projects, and arts education in the schools. Some of the city's biggest arts and cultural institutions receive grants through the program, which is funded by the general fund.

And if the proposed cuts are approved, it will undoubtedly put a strain on an already-strained arts community. "I don't know what they're thinking," said Margo Dunlap, chair and co-founder of the Oakland Cultural Trust, an association of Oakland art organizations and artists and executive director of Pro Arts, which receives funding through the program. "This is a time for trimming the budget, not for eliminating infrastructure. A 50-percent cut is one stroke from eliminating the entire program."

Dunlap says that while she understands reductions are necessary in light of Oakland's severe budget issues, the cuts are the biggest proposed reduction to any one program in the city's budget and are disproportionate to those proposed for other departments. She cites cut backs to the city council as example. "They've taken 10 percent salary cuts last year," she said. "That set the standard for what should be determined as proportional cuts." Anything more severe, may force some organizations to close their doors, she added.

Among the 2009-10 recipients were Creative Growth Art Center, EastSide Arts Alliance, the Crucible, Museum of Children's Art, Oakland East Bay Symphony, Oakland Youth Chorus, Savage Jazz Dance Company, Destiny Arts Center, Oakland Youth Orchestra, Stagebridge, Woman's Will, and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir. Other recipients include Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Youth Radio, Rock Paper Scissors Collective, Oaktown Jazz Workshops, and Youth UpRising, plus some 22 individual artists.

This isn't the first time the community has faced such cuts. In October 2008, the council proposed eliminating city arts funding altogether. But supporters came out in force and prevailed. Dunlap is hoping that a similar mobilization effort will show up to a special budget session of the city council on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m., when the matter will be discussed. Also on the chopping block is funding to Vietnamese Senior Services, Chabot Space & Science Center, Cypress-Mandela Training Center, Symphony in the Schools Program, and the Women's Business Initiative, among others.

The arts funds are seen as especially necessary at a time when many arts organizations are already dealing with shriveled budgets. Pro

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A smart look at today's local news

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Margo Dunlap worries about the cuts. Chris Duffey

Arts city funding has been reduced by 30 percent compared to four years ago, said Dunlap — the result of increased competition for funds. That meant they received $21,000 this year as opposed to $35,000 in years past, equaling about 10 percent of the organization's overall budget. Contrary to what some critics may contend, Dunlap says competition for the funds is fierce, the funding transparent, and the requirements very strict. Though it varies depending on the organization and artist, funding is limited to only a portion of one's overall budget.

While the competition for funds is stiff, even organizations that are approved for funding don't always receive it, according to Jan Schlesinger, marketing director for the Crucible, a nonprofit arts foundry based in West Oakland. "Whether you win the funding and get the check are two different things," she said. "They are still somewhat behind on actually making good on the funding promises that they were able to make. So I can understand why this is coming up again with the city."

But the city may be cutting off its own revenue stream if they cut the arts program as severely as they're considering. Dunlap notes that studies have shown that nonprofit arts in Oakland generate more than $103 million in gross economic opportunity annually and support more than 5,000 jobs. For investing $1 million in the arts now, the city will get back $4 million. "There are arguments that when you cut the program in half, that means that that economic activity could be cut in half," she said.

Oakland East Bay Symphony Executive Director Jennifer Duston echoed that sentiment. While Duston said the funding is "very meaningful to us and what we do," she also noted that arts programs have a rippling effect. "The arts have played a significant role in the revitalization of Oakland," she said. "On a Friday night we have 3,000 people coming to the Paramount — the downtown is very active. There are lots of jobs that came about because of that."

But the arts are also a vital part of a city's identity — particularly Oakland's. The monthly Art Murmur has fostered a community of artists and galleries, and drawn folks from outside the city, while the multimillion-dollar revitalization effort in Uptown has branded it as an arts and entertainment district. The city just spent $1.2 million of non-general fund money renovating a 19th Street BART station entrance on 19th Street as a gateway to the Uptown, including $500,000 for an art piece. But if the city's arts cuts go according to plan, there may not be much of an arts district to enter. ●

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Adam Keaton gets some air at BayAir

Adam Keller

CULTURE SPY

UP IN THE AIR

Berkeley High senior turns his BMX skills into an enterprise

By Rachel Swan

Adam Keaton is playing hookie. It's a Wednesday morning in March, and the Berkeley High senior is hobbling around his new BMX and skateboard park in West Oakland. Right now he has one good foot and one broken one, after a complex trick involving a 180-degree spin on a fourteen-foot curved wall. Keaton said he fractured that foot once before, after an embittered girlfriend pushed him down a flight of stairs. A few weeks ago he resplintered all the same bones. "I was doing a wall ride in the opposite direction, going to the left," he said, pointing at the plywood embankment. "I hesitated half and tried to catch myself at the last second at the ten inch deck up there. I stuck my right foot out and it just made it to the previous fracture line. My foot folded and broke the same three metatarsals. I'm outta commission again. Back in the boot."

With his gimp foot, big sunglasses, and long tangled hair, Keaton resembles a skater Captain Ahab. He opened BayAir Park last August, after locating a vacant lot on Myrtle Street, right off of West Grand Avenue. By then he had been riding BMX bikes for about three years, doing 360s, tail whips, and bar spins in local skate parks and getting ticketed by cops. He was a monster, capable of scaling vertical walls, grinding into concrete, and turning at acute angles. All he needed was a place to practice the craft.

The lot seemed ideal. It's wedged between a woodwork shop and a squat house, in a part of West Oakland where the weather is usually idyllic. Once Keaton signed the lease, he and an on-again, off-again partner named Shaun Sacho started building their own Adventure Playground. They picked up about four hundred hypodermic needles, laid out a blueprint for their obstacle course, and built huge ramps out of salvaged wood. Keaton picked up an old train step from Urban Ore and turned it into a grind rail. He enlisted friends to spraypaint the walls with cartoon characters, skateboard logos, and pictures of tree trunks. In October, he held a grand opening ceremony with hip-hop performances, live graffiti, and bike competitions. Pretty soon, the neighborhood kids started coming. "Darius and Tyrese are the main local shredders," he said. "They're ten or eleven."

Age alone makes Keaton an improbable city booster. At eighteen years old, he's a risk chaser, high school truant, and extreme sports buff. Before getting into BMX bikes, he did competitive freestyle skiing at Tahoe's Sugar Bowl academy. He switched to bikes after a long spate of injuries: bruised bones, sprained ankles, broken limbs, concussions. Then came the bike wrecks, the abusive girlfriend, and the damaging of public property. (Mostly from grinding twenty-inch wheels against pristine concrete surfaces.) Keaton got a lot of tickets riding at Berkeley skate parks, where bikes are prohibited. Cops also nailed him for trying stunts around the Tribune building in downtown Oakland, apparently a popular BMX hangout.

When he's not getting in scrapes, he's an enormously enterprising. His older brother studies chemical engineering at Princeton University. Keaton doesn't have the same academic inclination, but he does see value in science — particularly as it applies to biking. Right now he's reconfiguring the park to highlight another new attraction. This time it's a vertical wall with a steep enough gradient to propel bikers over a nearby box jump. Years of riding have taught him some useful physics. "You get an idea for different radiuses, how they feel, and what kind of trajectory," said Keaton. "It becomes pretty intuitive after awhile." He also knows how to build large contraptions and weld metal parts together. Keaton did most of the construction for BayAir, gathering all the lumber himself and cutting it at the woodworker's shop next door, using a computer-controlled cutting device. He's good with spatial geometry. He struts through the park with a tape measure at his hip.

"For measuring off the studs," Keaton explained. "Every eight inches. Know where to put the screws."

Such skills come in handy for his most recent addition to BayAir, a giant foam pit that BMXers and skateboarders use to practice jumps without having to land them perfectly at first. It's a sixteen by sixteen foot box lined with several layers of mattresses, and one hundred pallets on the bottom to keep the mattresses dry. (The park doesn't have a drainage system, so water just pools.) Keaton packed a thousand pounds of foam on top. He covers the whole thing with a tarp and locks the tarp with a carabiner to keep homeless people from sleeping there. On Wednesday he scrabbled up the side-ramp, tripped on his broken foot, and slid six feet to the ground, landing sideways and dropping a large water bottle. Keaton looked nonplussed. He climbed back up and jumped in the pit.

Keaton seems to thrive on uncertainty. He has no concrete plans beyond high school graduation, and he's funding BayAir out of his own pocket, with meager donations from local businesses. (The landlord next door, John Havrilesko, offers unlimited access to his woodshop and cutting devices.) Using money earned from summer camp jobs and consulting work (the nature of which is top secret, he says), Keaton pays the rent at BayAIR, maintains liability insurance, and buys all the materials. "That's the most prohibitive thing," he said, assuring that lumber doesn't come cheap. Nor does metal. His biggest expenses are the plates installed at the bottom of each ramp, and the metal rims. He's in the second phase of building, and plans to install some new quarterpipes along with a vertical wall. Eventually he'll add lights to keep BayAir open after dark. He's currently applying for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, if only to defray the construction costs.

At noon that Wednesday, Keaton locks up the foam pit and scrambles back down the ramp, still holding his water bottle and tape measure. It looks like another scorcher. Sunlight dapples the tarpaulin awning, and the graffiti has a sleek, oily glow. Down the street, a family of squatters is hopping the fence to an abandoned building. Keaton climbs into his Jeep Commander. He'll return in a few hours and stay until dusk, just like he does every day. Once the boot comes off, he'll be back on a bike again. ●

To share this story go to: ebx.ly.ps/bayair

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Rockridge Open House: April 4, 2-4:30 p.m.

This gorgeous two plus bedroom, two-bathroom Craftsman-style home at 401 Avon St. in Oakland boasts classic details including box beam ceilings and well maintained cabinetry. The tastefully updated kitchen peers out upon a large backyard featuring three raised bed planters and lemon, orange and plum trees. This home is enhanced by hardwood floors, ample closet space, dual pane windows, striking shoji screens, and an inviting fireplace. Tiny Avon Street is directly between Oakland's two hottest dining and shopping districts ó one block from the Temescal Farmers Market, three blocks from Bakesale Betty and Peet's, and five blocks from Rockridge BART.
Agent, Leonard Carrillo:
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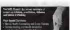
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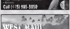
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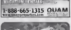
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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Wavy Gravy

Ride That Wavy Gravy Train

Michelle Esrick adds a Berkeley icon to the hippie hagiography

Chances are you've seen him tooling around Berkeley in a big white van plastered with Camp Winnarainbow stickers. You know the guy: Tie-dyed shirt. Gray-blond curly hair. Clown nose. Pulling a toy fish on a leash and blowing bubbles through a plastic pink wand. Such odd sartorial choices have rendered him a Berkeley icon. But far more people know Wavy Gravy at a glance than know the legend behind him. It turns out this guy is much more than a do-gooder or a feel-gooder. He came up in Greenwich Village at a time when young anti-war activists were just beginning to question their parents' credos. The word "Juded" meant something. The word "hippie" meant something. And Hugh Nanton Romney was right in the thick of that famous countercultural movement. In the 1960s he roomed with singer-songwriter Tom Paxton and befriended Bob Dylan, who supposedly wrote the song "A Hard Rain's A Gonna Fall" on Romney's typewriter. He would later become a Beatnik, a Peacenik, and a serial founder of foundations. His Hog Farm commune would be deputized to make fire trails, run security and serve food at Woodstock, where Romney also helped manage the "freak-out" tent (for people suffering bad acid trips). He got the moniker "Wavy Gravy" from famed bluesman B.B. King.

Filmmaker and veteran activist Michelle Esrick met Wavy Gravy in the early Nineties, when they were both doing benefit work for Gravy's performing arts camp, Winnarainbow. Esrick was bedazzled. To her, Wavy Gravy was much more than a highly visible, clownishly-dressed local celebrity. He was incredibly generous, kind-hearted, earnest, approachable, and capable of tackling real-world problems in a common sense manner. He also made an excellent muse. Esrick hatched a plan to document Wavy Gravy's life in 1999. She assembled a film crew that year and began following him around with a camera, gathering interviews with Ramblin' Jack Elliott, famed activist Doctor Larry Brilliant, and Gravy's wife Jahanara Romney. She traced Gravy's biography, from Greenwich Village to the commune he founded on a Southern California mountaintop, to his current charitable enterprises. In the process, Esrick unearthed amazing 16mm footage that had been gathering dust for years.

The end result, called ***Saint Misbehavin': The Wavy Gravy Movie***, will hit theaters this summer. It's garnered high marks on the festival circuit, partly because of the cult of adoration that still surrounds Wavy Gravy, but also because of Esrick's creative approach to the story. She perceives Wavy Gravy as both a remarkable individual and the representation of an ideal. "The word 'hippie' has become a brand name, you know?" said Esrick. "You see the origin of the word in this film. You find out what a 'hippie' really is."

Esrick presents a preview of *Saint Misbehavin'* on Thursday, April 1, at the **Grand Lake Theater** (3200 Grand Ave., Oakland). It starts at 6 p.m. with a reception for premium ticket holders and ends with a Q&A featuring Esrick, Wavy Gravy and other stars from the film. Proceeds benefit the film release and Camp Winnarainbow. $15-$95. SaintMisbehavin.com.

— Rachel Swan

To share this story, type: ebx.by.ac/wavygravy

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

Beeda Amusements Traveling amusement park. Popular rides include the giant wheel, zipper, carnival flying swinger, giant slide, moon walker, eagle 16, [illegible], [illegible], Himalaya, [illegible], Super Express, [illegible], ring of fire, cycle jump, fun country, and the [illegible]. Carnival held in the Laney College parking lot. April 2-11. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-834-5740, 510-[illegible]. Laney.peralta.edu.

An Evening of Nepali Music, Dance and Food With local Nepali and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] bar serving beer and wine. Sat., April 3, 6-9 p.m. $25. [illegible] Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

Old-Fashioned Easter With egg hunts, games, Easter Bunny photo opportunities, and SPCA adoptions. Sat., April 3, 12-3 p.m. $2-$5. [illegible] Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

[illegible] Night Local [illegible] showcase their work with 70 [illegible], in 20 [illegible] Mon., April 5, 6-8:30 p.m. [illegible] 2440 Webster St., Oakland. 510-238-1120. [illegible].com.

UC [illegible] With [illegible], desserts, wine, silent auction and [illegible] drawings. Fri., April 2, 5:30-8 p.m. $20-$35. $50. [illegible] Barrows Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-3466.

Vinyl [illegible] Launch Party Celebrating a new season [illegible] New People Gallery in Japan Town with [illegible] designers, fine art, and live music. Part of this weekend's [illegible] Conference at [illegible]. [illegible] Tue. [illegible] April 3. Free. [illegible] Center, 1[illegible] [illegible] St., San Francisco.

YBCA's Big [illegible] Night Party Music, [illegible] and art by [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] Call and [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]; [illegible] workshops with [illegible] and Rob [illegible], and a [illegible]. Sat., April 3, 8 p.m. Free. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-978-2787. YBCA.org.

KIDS

Breakfast With Bunny Easter Bunny breakfast for kids ages 2-5 and [illegible] Wed., March 31, 9:30-10:30 a.m. $8, $7. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-676-5200.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, [illegible] shows, children's theater shows, the [illegible] of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

[illegible] A creativity workshop for kids grades [illegible]-12. [illegible] [illegible], start anytime. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m. $15/session or $50/four [illegible]. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Family Show With the Alphabet [illegible] Sat., April 3, 10:30 a.m. $3-$4. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

National Puppet [illegible] Sing-Along With Micah and Molly of the National Puppet Theater [illegible] [illegible] $[illegible] for kids, $[illegible] for each additional sibling, free for adults and infants. Sadie Roy's Cafe, 4[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] for Kids Beginning [illegible] in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of Indian Classical Arts, 8034 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].org.

Spring [illegible] Learning Adventure Science camp for kids in grades 1-5. Daily activities include hands-on experiments, [illegible], and projects, including an extended project that will culminate on a [illegible] on the last day of the camp. For info, visit [illegible].org or call 925-485-5150. April 5-9, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. $325. [illegible] School, 1800 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton.

Spring Break [illegible] Camp [illegible] for kids ages 13 and up. E-mail [illegible].org. Through April 7. $[illegible]. Berkeley Community Theater, 1930 [illegible] Way, Berkeley. 510-644-[illegible].

PICKS

Taste for Artisans

The folks who resurrected Andy Warhol in an Emeryville warehouse last year and brought Best of the East Bay parties to the Oakland Museum in 2008 and 2009 are trying to outdo themselves yet again. On Saturday, Apr. 3, the *East Bay Express* hosts a brand new iteration of its Taste for Art party, called **Taste for Artisans**. This time, we're bowing to an "urban hoedown" theme, with pie-eating contests, mechanical bull rides, creamed-corn wrestling, two stages of live music, exhibitions from De Young Museum and the Crucible, beer, wine, a raffle, DJ[illegible] swing, local farmers, valet bike parking from East Bay Bicycle Coalition, and fifty artisans selling their wares. Presented in conjunction with Mini Marzipan, the party will bring pastoral Americana to the heart of Jack London Square — but it'll still be a little urban. It all goes down at **Jack London Square Pavilion** (98 Broadway, Oakland). 5-11 p.m. Free. Proceeds from raffle tickets and beverage sales will benefit Drawbridge. 510-879-3700 or EastBayExpress.com.

— Rachel Swan

Hubba Hubba Revue Live Burlesque

By now, **Hubba Hubba** is on the verge of becoming a well-ensconced tradition in Oakland. Its long-running Monday night burlesque series at **the Uptown** (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) features old-fashioned strip teases, comedy sketches, and bawdy stage banter. Being a successful burlesque dancer takes as much skill as any other form of solo performance. You have to be funny and quippy, know how to move gracefully about the stage, seduce your audience, pace yourself, and save an "aha" moment for the end. The dancers at Hubba Hubba work handily in all those realms. On Monday, Apr. 5, they present a special bachelor party featuring comedy sketches, variety-show acts, and "burlesque" performances by Sparkly Devil, Miss Mae Western, Kiss Me Kate, Melanzzilla, and Bunny Pistel. It caps it off with a special set by absurdist folk group **the Bobby Joe Ebola and the Children MacNuggits** (fronted by Corbett Redford III and occasional *East Bay Express* contributor Dan Abbot). That's a whole lotta bang for just $5. 9 p.m. HubbaHubbaRevue.com. — *R.S*

Hubba Hubba Revue.

Opening Day

The **Oakland A's** didn't finish up the last decade very well. After Moneyballing their way to repeat playoff appearances early on, they slumped pretty hard at the end of the Aughts. The A's open the 2010-11 season with a **four-game set against division rival Seattle** (April 5, 6, and 7 at 7:05 p.m., April 8 at 12:35 p.m.) at the **Oakland Coliseum** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland). The Mariners finished ahead of the Athletics last year, but so did everyone else in the American League West. The A's break in a few new players for the new season and maybe with the calendar turning over with a fresh zero, Oaklanders might find another legend. $9-$50. 877-493-2255 or OaklandAs.com. — *Kibby Kleiman*

Teen Homework [illegible] Institute Thu., April 1, 4-6 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Institute, 5560 College Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild [illegible] Books Children's program [illegible] stories, music, and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] On Saturdays, [illegible] story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet [illegible] animals and learn [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.; Sundays, 1:45 p.m. Free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Drop-In Sports Activities [illegible] 6-12 and [illegible] under 18 welcome; children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays [illegible] gathering where transgender girls, [illegible], and first-timers are welcome. Enjoy snacks and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Show up, make friends, take photos, and get [illegible]. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-20 donation. [illegible] Love It, 43075 [illegible] Blvd. #2, [illegible]. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

East Bay [illegible] Join the LGBT group for [illegible] runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local [illegible]. Visit the Web site for [illegible]. Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. Free. [illegible].org. Berkeley Marina, 201 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740.

Express 30s [illegible] group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their [illegible]. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. $5-$20 suggested. Whatever [illegible] 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBT Youth [illegible] Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Thursdays: [illegible] games, speakers. Fridays: [illegible] movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.; Fridays, 4-8 p.m. Free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, salsa, [illegible], nightclub two-step, waltz, [illegible] and line dances. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. $13-$20 sliding scale. [illegible] 510-[illegible]. [illegible]. Lake Merritt [illegible] Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-604-2020. [illegible].org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Trivia Game for rock and [illegible]. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Free. [illegible], 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Salon Everyone is invited to join [illegible] on a broad range of topics, including [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], and whatever [illegible]. Info: 510-[illegible]. First and Third [illegible] of every [illegible], 1-3 p.m. Free. Jewish Community Center of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

[illegible] Community jam session for drummers, singers, and [illegible] who play rumba. First and Third Sunday of every month, 3:30-6 p.m. [illegible]. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Drinking Liberally [illegible] [illegible] Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m.; First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. [illegible] [illegible] Inc., 31, [illegible] & Lounge, 3021 [illegible], Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Trivia Night [illegible] by Justin & [illegible]. Mondays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 6201 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

The Living Philosophers [illegible] A [illegible] discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible]. North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Singles Night $8 per person for three bowling games and shoe rental. [illegible] welcome. Call ahead to reserve your lane. First Sunday of every [illegible]. Holiday Bowl, 29817 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-[illegible]. HolidayBowl.[illegible].

Style with Wine A monthly fashion show with wine, [illegible], and more. First Thursday of every month, 5 p.m. $15. 925-362-0813. [illegible]. [illegible] Boutique, 437 [illegible] Ave., Danville. 925-362-0813. [illegible].com.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS: PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Bike ride through Oakland. Info: [illegible].org. First Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Marshlands of Dreams [illegible] walk along the LaRiviere Marsh. Sat., [illegible] 3, [illegible]-11:30 a.m. Free. Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 1 Marshlands Rd., Newark. FWS.gov/desfbay.

[illegible] Bike Team Weekly Bike Ride Leisurely 15-25 mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley Hills. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 6500 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].net.

[illegible] [illegible], 10 p.m. $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz.

Thursday Night [illegible] East Bay Run Club [illegible] 3-6 mile runs, with [illegible] provided by See Jane Run. For info, visit [illegible]. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Continues through June 1. Free. See Jane Run Sports, 5817 College Ave., Oakland. 510-428-2681. SeeJaneRunSports.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to: Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Neil Dickerson's "House Facade/St. Genevieve"

Gimme Shelter

House-hunting après le déluge

There's no place like home, be it ever so humble (or, if we're well heeled, humbling). But in 2008, "financial weapons of mass destruction" (Warren Buffett, 2003), i.e., subprime-backed mortgage securities, financial derivatives, credit default swaps, and home-equity funded consumption, devastated the Ownership Society. Bricks and mortar (and concrete) suddenly became a lot less abstract and a lot more worrisome. The mortgage tsunami has, not surprisingly, introduced a sense of crisis and absurdity into contemporary art; the photos of **Neil Dickerson, Eirik Johnson, Ali Richards, Alice Shaw, Luther Thie, and Kathrine Worel** in *Siege*, curated by Kala Gallery's **Lauren Davies**, are no exception. The "suburban tract developments, whimsical 1950s fantasy castles, contemporary ghost town[s], and stately homes under siege by ... nature, time, neglect, and decay" depicted here symbolize this embattled era of suburban/exurban New Hooverville "trashed out" foreclosures with optimistically spray-painted lawns.

Dickerson, from a Mississippi Delta cotton-farming family with degrees in anthropology, photography, and architecture, is a preservationist and archivist; her 2004 series, *Cane*, documents the once-stately mansions of the antebellum South now gone to seed and invaded by the landscape, reminiscent of Clarence John Laughlin's New Orleans photos, but, in "House Facade/St. Genevieve," "Athe/Fayette," and "Parlor/Hinds," with history trumping nostalgia. Johnson explores a more familiar (albeit equally neglected) neighborhood in his *West Oakland Walk* series, finding an offbeat humor in the isolation and estrangement in "Fenced-in Car" and "Borderland: Untitled (Island)." Richards goes upslope and up-market in her *Jesusita Summerland* series, examining mountain homes devastated by last year's wildfires in "Gary's New Home," with its house bisected (for removal?), and "2245 Holly Road" and "Gardner Residence: East Mountain Drive," with their skeletal ruins.

Shaw looks at architecture humorously in her *Castles of the United States of America* series, a typology of 1920s and 1930s stucco houses gussied up with neo-Romanesque turrets and machicolations and stone-framed portals. Thie and Worel examine Merced's all-but-abandoned suburbs in the Central Valley: "Outpost" presents a McMansion model home with lawn, driveway, access street, and lighting pole, all surrounded by undeveloped dirt, with a tree-lined road leading back to executive homes, presumably inhabited. Also included: a 1950s Civil Defense film, *Life in a Fall-out Shelter*, on life underground "in the wake of disaster," in a public shelter with water and crackers, or a private one, with sodas and canned soup (like the failsafe nuclear family in the nucleocalypse comedy *Blast from the Past*). *Siege* runs through May 8 at **Kala Gallery** (2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley), 510-841-7000 or kala.org.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/gr/gimmeshelter

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space. Intersection Photography and film exhibition featuring work by two married couples: [illegible] & Hauntan Rosen, and Vanessa Woods & Josh Smith. Opening reception: Fri., April 2, 7-10 p.m. Closing reception: Sunday, May 2, 4-6 p.m. April 2-May 2. 416 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

6007 Telegraph Gallery. Multiversal Group exhibition focuses on the occult. Co-curated by Kari Joslyn, Ariel Herman, and [illegible]. Opening: Fri., April 2, 7 p.m. free. 6007 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Actual Café. Preservation and Change: Photography and Design from Brooklyn to the Bay Photography with political and drawings by Eva Silverman. Through April 1. free. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-735-8416. ActualCafe.com.

Albatross Pub. Copper Series by Salena Acton Apr. 1-31. free. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

Artisan Wine Lounge & Cafe. Roger [illegible] Sperling Presenting [illegible] paintings inspired by [illegible]. Through April [illegible]. free. 1633 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek.

ArtWorksOakBook. [illegible] Drawings, paintings, and an environmental installation by Mike [illegible] and Savanna Snow. Through April 30. free. 823 Washington St., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Bedford Gallery. Story Painters: Drawings, Paintings, Prints, and Tapestries by Squeak Carnwath, Hung Liu, and [illegible] Survey of works by exceptional Bay Area artists. Through April 11. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Brower Gallery. [illegible]: Solo Show of Karen Gallagher Printed and hand-drawn works made with an alchemical process. Through April 2. 455 17th St., Ste #201, Oakland. [illegible].org.

Cal State East Bay University Art Gallery. BFA Exhibition Through April 22. 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. 510-885-3299. Class.CSUEastBay.edu/artgallery.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. Kagami Glass-based work by Kana Tanaka. April 1-May 15. free. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 415-577-7537. ChandraCerrito.com.

Cornelia Bell & Black Artisan Gallery. First Friday Series The Cornelia Bell Gallery First Friday Series features work by Black [illegible] Margot Dixon, [illegible], and Emory Douglas. First Friday of every month. 8 p.m. 1018 Pine St., Oakland. 510-451-4661.

The Crucible Gallery of Art. Craft Group exhibit drawn with the artists explore an ancient breadth of techniques using a variety of materials. Through May 2. free. [illegible] Through May 7. Cathedral Building, Oakland. TheCrucible.org/gallery.

David Brower Center. The Lake Project: Books by David Maisel Through May 21. **The Lake Project: Photographs by David Maisel** Photographs of Owens Lake, a 200 square mile body of water off the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Through May 21. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible]: Four-Handed Pottery by Five East Bay [illegible] Group show featuring work by Margaret Morrison, [illegible], Kelly [illegible], Claudia [illegible], and Marty Wood. Through April 15. free. 2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo. ContraCosta.edu/art/art.htm.

Expressions Gallery. The Modernists Featuring work by [illegible]. Through April 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

Float Center. Where Do I Go Next Here? Mark Wagner, Clayton Thiel and Salene C Schultz combine sculpture, paintings, and conceptual art. Through April 30. free. 1090 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1103. TheFloatCenter.com.

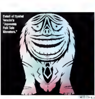
[illegible] Winery. Paintings by Judy [illegible] Through April 30. free. 7000 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 925-[illegible]. [illegible].

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] Members Show With photography, paintings,

PICKS

Rockin' Papers, Swingin' Scissors

While [illegible] from folded paper to the masses have lost their 18th-century [illegible] portrait connotations lately and gained American art world credibility — thanks to the incendiary images of Kara Walker — but paper cutting is an art form which taught in Asia so it gets no novelty points there. Even so, the people and creatures of Tokyo artist/cartoonist/illustrator/musician **Ryohei Tanaka** combinations of wide-eyed creature cuteness and Ultraman *tokusatsu* (special effects) weirdness are knockout products of global hybrid culture, both kid- and adult-friendly and perfectly executed, even if Tanaka protests, "I am all over the place. My room is a mess. My brain is a mess." (We prefer false humility in the mysterious West.) Some titles: "Oakland Zombie," "Sweet Cakes," "Wide Face," "Yoga Girl," "Mr. Quest," and "Smoking Pink Bike." Book available. ***Rockin' Papers Swingin' Scissors*** runs through April 3 at **Rowan Morrison Gallery** (330 40th St., Oakland) 510-384-5344 or RowanMorrison.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*



Detail of Ryohei Tanaka's "Japanese Folk Tale Monsters."

Radical Botanical

Art, like horticulture, to [illegible] Dorothy Parker's quip), is led by what people think as well as by chance. It's hybridized by luck and design. The flower photographs of **Hugh Cohen, Chi Fang, Michele Hoffberr** and **Hiroko Tu** are all informed by contemporary abstract painting — just as painting has historically been influenced by photography. Cohen's photos of flower garlands floating in rivers may suggest Pre-Raphaelite paintings of the waterborne nymph Ophelia, but there's an ecological message beneath their somber poetry. Fang takes a more lyrical, abstract, painterly view, emphasizing atmosphere, color, pattern, and movement. Hoffberr uses a macro lens and extreme cropping to emphasize shape, texture, and form, while Tu, who also employs dark backgrounds, focuses more on the drama of plants as expressions of energy. ***Radical Botanical*** runs through April 3 at **Slate Art and Design** (4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) 510-652-4085 or www.SlateArtandDesign.com. — *D.C.*

ceramics, sculptures, greeting cards, decorative goods, and jewelry. Through May 1. free. 22654 Main St., Hayward. 510-538-2787. HaywardArts.org.

Ego Gallery: Tete Tete Recent paintings by [illegible]. Apr. 1-May 1. free. [illegible] St. Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].

The Hive Gallery: Little Room Group show [illegible] works by local artists Lee Harris, [illegible], Miriam Fagan, [illegible], Rachel Faith Egenhoefer, [illegible], Megan Fraser, [illegible], Stephen Fouk, [illegible], and Ira Kaufmann. Fri., April 2, 6-9 p.m. free. 301 Jefferson St., Oakland. 925-212-6728.

Johansson Projects: The Voluminous Order: featuring New Oakland and Cornelia Garfield Exhibit features moving [illegible] and aluminum [illegible]. Reception April 2, 5-8 p.m. April 2-May 15. free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

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Alice F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: The Art of Transformation Featuring work by [illegible], plus a concurrent exhibition in the WIP Gallery of children's artwork from the Artist in Residency program at Children's Hospital. Through May 7. free. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499. [illegible].

La Peña Cultural Center: Mapeche Art Outdoor [illegible]. Through March 31. free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Luna Pictures To Go: The Wednesday Night Open Mic Flyers by Paul Pot Exhibit in Oakland more than 150 drawings by Paul Pot, promoting his Wednesday night open mic series at the Oakland Lounge. Apr. 1-31. free. 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-527-8378. [illegible].

Las Positas College Art Gallery: East County High School Art Teachers Exhibition Through Apr. 15. free. 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Info: 925-424-1000.

Lucky Ju Ju Pinball Art Gallery, Alameda: Gross The Recycling Concepts Earth Day exhibit features paintings with new ideas for free recycling. Opening reception Fri., Apr. 2, 7 p.m. April 2-May 1. free. 713-E Santa Clara St., Alameda. 510-205-8742. [illegible].

Oakland School of the Arts: Spring Exhibition 2010 Apr. 2-4. 530 18th St., Oakland.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: Paintings from Here and Far Exhibit by Seamus Berkeley. Through Apr. 30. free. **Photo Groove** Through April 30. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7700.

Mars Gross Photography Exhibit features photographs by Mark Rabbass, a traveling [illegible] photographer. Through May 1. free. [illegible]. 510-[illegible].

The Oak Room Gallery: "A Groove Room" Art Room Savanna Snow, [illegible]. Through April 19. free. 427 Water St., Oakland.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch: Forest For The Trees: Groove Visionary Drama Media Photos by Bruno [illegible] April 2-29. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible]: Re-Fashioned: The Bygone of the Clothing Featuring designs by Angelina [illegible]. [illegible]. Opening reception April 2, 7:30 p.m. April 2-May 15. free. 447 Twenty-fifth Street, Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery: Groove [illegible] Photographs by Alejandro Chavez. Through Apr. 17. free. 2295 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1460. [illegible].

Pro Arts: 2 X 2 Solos: [illegible] Large-scale paintings, sculpture, and [illegible]. Through April 9. free. **2 X 2 Solos: [illegible]** Large-scale digital [illegible] curated by [illegible]. Through April 9. free. 550 2nd St., Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Pro Arts Gallery: Oakland Art Murmur Pro Arts extends its Gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland's Art Murmur, First Friday of every Month, 6-9 p.m. Free. [illegible]. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. (510) 763-4361.

Richmond Art Center: Focus on Firing: Saggar with [illegible] Class teaches how to use saggar firing techniques to enhance clay projects. Sat., April 3, 1-4:30 p.m. free. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Rowan Morrison Gallery: Groove Papers, Swingin' Scissors: Papercuts by Ryohei Tanaka Through Apr. 3. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Slate Gallery: Radical Botanical Show features contemporary botanical photography by Hugh Cohen, Michele Hoffberr, Chi Fang, and Hugh Cohen. Through March 31. free. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Berkeley Art Center: Craig [illegible] Presenting painting, photography, and collage. Through May 7. 2220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. [illegible].

[illegible] Artspace: Kaleidoscope Solo exhibition

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FRIDAY NIGHT FILM @ PFA THEATER
[illegible]

BLIND DATE
7 PM [illegible] Losey (U.K., 1959; 96 mins.)

MODESTY BLAISE
9 PM [illegible] Losey (U.K., 1966; 119 mins.) [illegible]

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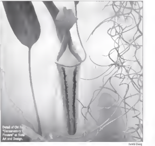
Detail of Chi F… "Conservatory … Flowers" at Sto… Art and Design.

DeWitt Cheng

MOG

tion of collaged geometric forms by Chris Vogel. Opening reception April 4, 3-5 p.m. with performances by Jenny Gramme, stereoload, and Will Meadows. April 4-May 2. free. 788 40th St., Oakland. WeAdSpace.com

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum, In a New Light Some works from the museum's collection represent an introduction to the major traditions of Asia. Daily. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Shanghai Exhibit features 130 artworks, including calligraphy, Shanghai Deco furniture, posters, film clips, revolutionary posters, and installations. Through Sept. 5. 200 Larkin St., San Francisco. (415) 668-8921.

Beat Museum: 5 Days with Allen Ginsberg The museum's ongoing exhibit is a collection of never-before-seen photographs of poets Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti and playwright Michael McClure, by photographer Harold Adler. Daily. 540 Broadway, San Francisco. 1-800-537-6822. TheBeatMuseum.org.

Berkeley Art Museum, Assignment Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution Through June 27. **BAMscape** Interactive sculpture by artist and architect Thom Faulders. Through Nov. 30, 2011. … 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu.

Blackhawk Museum, Alfa Romeo 8AT Exhibit and Three aerodynamic concept automobiles from Alfa Romeo, circa 1953-55 … Daily. 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville. 925-736-2277. BlackhawkMuseum.org.

Cal grows East Bay, All Aboard! The Impact of Trains on American Culture Exhibit in the Museum of Anthropology centers on the history of trains and construction of the transcontinental railroad. Through June 11. 2840 Contra Costa Blvd., Hayward. 510-881-2000. www.sulphurcreek.info.

Exploratorium, Traits of Life A collection of exhibits and demonstrations revealing the fundamental elements common to all living things. Daily. 3601 Lyon St., San Francisco. 415-561-0363. Exploratorium.edu.

Habitot Museum & Museum, Shoi Game The ongoing exhibition of Bagel Goldenberg's p… Shoi Game, The Big … The Missing Planet. Daily. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Hoffmann A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection: a Museum of works from China, Egypt, and Peru plus locations in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native California Collections** The "visible storage" exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection of Native Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Institute of Mosaic Art, California Culture-Culture Celebrating Diversity through Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily. **Mosaic Art: Pet Portraiture** A celebration of pets, in mosaic. 2601 Ch… St., Oakland. 510-437-4039. InstituteofMosaicArt.com.

Lawrence Hall of Science, Science on a Sphere (SOS) New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $6, $9, $11. Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Legion of Honor, … and Museum Jewelry exhibition featuring work by Cartier, who was known as "king of jewelers" during the Belle Époque. Through Apr. 18. 34th Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. LegionofHonor.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum, Projections Multimedia works from the museum's Museum collections of archival, documentary, and fundamental films. Daily. **Memory Lab** Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family Archives and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

MOCHA – Museum of Children's Art, Once Upon a Time: Children's Book Illustrators Then and Now Through May 2. free. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

Museum on Main, The Horse, of Course: Horses in the History of the Amador-Livermore Valley Through Aug. 15. 603 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-462-2766. MuseumonMain.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum, Pinball art: Tiki Art … pinball-themed art from 257 … Through March 31. $7.50-$15. **Historic Pinball Exhibits** With 15 woodrails and 10 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus exhibits representing early pinballs from the Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hasse, Dan Miller, and Michael Schiess collections. Tuesdays-Sundays, 2-9 p.m. $7.50, $15. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Matisse and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Presents from the museum's holdings including work by Kahlo, Mondrian, Klein, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Duchamp, et al. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and media-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMoMA.org.

USS Hornet Museum, TRM Avenger WWII torpedo bomber, restored by volunteers. Daily. **Meet Soldiers: Experience** Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the … Japanese-American troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. Pier 3, Alameda. 510-521-8448 ex. 283. USS-Hornet.org.

Zeum, Reality Check A hands-on exhibit for kids that provides safe practice … arts, media, and technology. Daily. 221 4th St., San Francisco. 415-777-2800. Zeum.org. ●

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

City Solo New solo performances by Ernie Lombard, Theo F. Nguyen, Caitlin Gill, and Hanks Rossi. Starting April 4. Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through April 18. $10. Off-Market Theater, Stage 250, San Francisco. 415-640-0878.

Comedy Off Broadway Comedy showcase with a rotating cast. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 9 p.m. Continues through May 28. $12. Miss Pearl's Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7171. MissPearlsJamHouse.com.

[illegible] and Roy Carl Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m.; Thu., April 1, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., April 2, 8:30 & 10:30 p.m.; Sat., April 3, 7 & 9:30 p.m. $16-$18. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Show de Tour Featuring Indian, Jewish, and Indian Jewish comedians. Sun., April 4, 7-8:30 p.m., $10. Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4940.

[illegible] Showcase With rotating acts. Fridays, 8 p.m. $12-$18. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Stand-Up Comedy Night at the Layover Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. Continues through June 1. Free. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

Stone Soup Improv Comedy A monthly showcase of improvised [illegible]. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $7-$10. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

Thursday Night Fling With rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

[illegible] Without Regrets A vaudevillian game show style MC battle and poetry show hosted by Jamie Kennedy and Geoff Trenchard. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. $7-$10. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 866-783-1166. OaklandMetro.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Live Salsa Music Beginning and intermediate dance lessons, plus a live tropical performance by a different act each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $12, $8 students. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

LIVE VARIETY

La Peña 35th Anniversary Edition: The Past Presents Vol. II Music, dance, and spoken word showcase hosted by Wanmey Poulard, with Kiko [illegible], Wanmey Mason Jones, De Rot & Ids, 43 Love, and Sister Shows, plus DJ Woodgun. Sat., April 3, 8 p.m., $7-$10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Live Lingerie Show w/ prizes. Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m., free. Warehouse Bar, 402 Webster St., Oakland. 510-451-3501. TheWarehouseBar.net.

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THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

2010 Guerilla Youth Theater Project: American Dream Fri., April 2, 8:00 p.m., $5-$10. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

The Apple Tree Robert Lee Brooks [illegible] Mason of the 1966 musical based on the Diary of Adam and Eve by Mark Twain. Music direction by Pat King. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through May 1. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West Les Waters directs this world premiere of the play written by Naomi Iizuka, commissioned by Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Through April 11. $33-$71. Berkeley Repertory Thrust Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

Hamlet: Blood in the Brain Students from the drama department at Oakland Technical High School present Naomi Iizuka's adaptation of Hamlet. Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m. Free, $5 donations welcome. Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. 510-594-2626.

John Gabriel Borkman by Henrik Ibsen and David Eldridge. Directed by Barbara Oliver. Starting April 2. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through April 27. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

[illegible] Center Rep Theater production directed by Michael Butler. Stage adaptation by Christopher Sergel. Starting April 1. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through May 1. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. LESCA.org.

A Seagull in the Hamptons Shotgun Players production of a new freely adapted drama by Emily Mann, freely adapted from Anton Chekov. Directed by Reid Davis. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through April 28. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org. ■

PICKS

Anna Halprin: Breath Made Visible

Dance pioneer **Anna Halprin** takes center stage in ***Breath Made Visible***, the first documentary feature about her life and career. A Bay Area resident since the 1940s, Halprin has spent the last seventy years subverting the conventions of both modern dance and society with everything from total theater and naked performance to private rituals and America's first multiracial dance company. After retiring in the 1970s to fight cancer, Halprin developed healing movement for cancer and AIDS patients, then returned to performing at age eighty, renewed as a person and an artist. "Before I had cancer," she said, "I lived my life for my art. After I had cancer, I lived my art for my life." Her latest premiere shows at the **Elmwood Theater** (2966 College Ave., Berkeley) Friday through Thursday, Apr. 2 through 8. A Q&A with Halprin and director Ruedi Gerber follows the 7 p.m. show on Saturday, Apr. 3. Call for times: 888-819-510-433-9730. RialtoCinemas.com or BreathMadeVisible.com *— Claudia Bauer*

Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West

Playwright Naomi Iizuka's evidently [illegible] close to heart. Her new work, ***Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West***, grapples with concepts as tricky and unwieldy as the title suggests, post-colonial theory: "Otherness," voyeurism, and the semiotics of photography. It's also a gorgeous play, set in a blank, angular set that represents the inside of a camera. *Strange Devices* starts off in Meiji-era Japan, where Isabel Hewitt (Kate Eastwood Norris) and her arms-dealer husband (Danny Wolohan) arrive for business and stay for one tour. Later on, we meet their 20th-century analogue, an art history professor who traffics in stereotypes. His fascination with two Japanese-American art dealers, Kiku (Teresa Avia Lim) and Hiro (Johnny Wu) prove to be his undoing. Iizuka weaves these stories together to show the perpetuation of an "Orientalist" mindset, from the olden days to contemporary academia. To accord with the theme, director **Les Waters** has the actors play multiple roles, repeat each other's lines, and pose in sepia-toned photographs. Set designer Mimi Lien and video artist Leah Gelpe give the play a painterly composition, while sound designer Bray Poor punctuates scenes with a sharp flash and the click of a camera shutter. In one scene, the video screens show giant close-ups of tattooed bodies making love. It's sexy, but also incredibly discomfiting given the thesis of the play: We're all rendered voyeurs here. Through April 11 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $16.50-$71. BerkeleyRep.org *— Rachel Swan*

Anna Halprin

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PERFORMANCE pg. 38

REGGIE WILSON/ ANDRÉYA OUAMBA

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THEATER

CHEKHOV AT THE BEACH

Shotgun Players present a *Seagull* for our time

By Rachel Swan

How exactly, a hypersensitive writer named Alex spawned from the womb of his diva mother Maria is anyone's guess, since the two seem to have no genetic traits in common. But they do make a dynamic pair in Emily Mann's *A Seagull in the Hamptons*, a dysfunctional-family drama inspired by Anton Chekov's play *The Seagull*. Mann's version uses all of the original characters (albeit with names changed), the same character relationships, the same symbols, and the same basic plot structure. But her *Seagull* is crisper and funnier than the original, littered with pop-culture nods and literary references. Like Chekov, Mann figured out how to wring all the dramatic juice out of human misery and find the humor underneath.

So did Reid Davis, who directed Shotgun Players' current production of *Seagull*, running through April 25 at the Ashby Stage. In the opening scene we're introduced to morose 22-year-old Milly (Anna Ishida) and her unwanted suitor Harold (Andy Alabran). It's a disorienting scene, not only because the two look wrong for each other (he's a prep with big, chunky glasses; she's a goth chick with tousled hair and heavy eye makeup), but because Milly looks out of place in their beach habitat. Right away, Milly establishes herself as Harold's superior, telling him she wears black because she's "in mourning for her life." Ishida is an interesting choice for the role. She doesn't have quite the fragility you'd expect from Milly, whose real predicament isn't life per se, but her unrequited love for Alex. Yet she does have the right look for the role: dour, evasive, and unremittingly pissed off.

She has plenty to be pissed off about, as the resident black widow in a set that seems allergic to black. Everything else in the Hamptons is bright and artificially cheery. The characters wear pastel pinks, teals, Hawaiian prints, spaghetti straps, floppy sun hats, World Wildlife Fund beach bags, and loafers without socks (all meticulously conceptualized by costume designer Victoria Livingston-Hall). They sit amid the abandoned sneakers in Robert Broadfoot's sandpit set, meant to depict a Long Island beach town where rich New Yorkers convene for a summer reprieve from the Big Apple. The scenic design is minimalist but spot-on, with its modular boardwalk and landscape painting in the background. The actors traipse through this landscape as bleary-eyed as any beachgoers. They chug Pellegrino water, slather themselves with sunscreen, and show off their swarthy orange tans. Mostly, they fight.

Fighting is what Chekhovian characters do best. The Russian playwright had a sordid view of human relationships, and he seemed to think that an ego, if left to its own devices, could wreck just about anything. In this case the ego belongs to Maria (Trish Mulholland), an aging actress who likens herself to such grand dames as Judi Dench and Meryl Streep. Mulholland plays Maria as the type of intemperate broad you wouldn't want to meet in a dark alley. She incessantly criticizes the other characters, grouses about her surroundings, and slithers about the stage with her current boy-toy, a bestselling hack writer named Philip (Alex Moggridge). He's an appropriate foil for Alex (Liam Callister) and sidekick for Maria: the ruthless, fame-mongering striver who carries a notebook mostly for show, occasionally documenting his crude observations about the world.

Benjamin Privitt

Nina and Alex are wobbly moral compasses.

Like most writers, Chekhov worked best in threes, so *Seagull* is really a big jumble of overlapping love triangles. Alex has the hots for a small-town girl and aspiring actress named Nina (Kelsey Venter), so he largely ignores any overtures from Milly. Nina likes Philip. Philip seduces Nina, but ultimately returns to Maria. Maria feels familial obligation to Alex, though her allegiance is to Philip. A lecherous old doctor (John Mercer) flirts with Nina and Milly's mother Paula (Beth Deitchman). Harold likes Milly, either for masochistic reasons or lack of other options. In the midst of all this confusion, Alex and Nina stand out as the play's only moral compasses, but they're wobbly at best. Chekhov envisioned *The Seagull* as an ensemble piece, and Mann kept it that way by weaving together several stories.

At times, it's hard to know who to latch onto. We get to see Milly fall apart in the first act, watch as dark bleeds into light over her sad, inert face, and wonder why she's so hard up over a guy who doesn't seem worth the trouble. Indeed, Alex seems like a weird choice for an unrequited crush. His jaw juts out and his cheeks look like they were colored with red crayon. Callister is young and seems fairly green — he conveys the youthful Alex quite well, but never quite reaches the full sentiment of Alex the writer. From the moment Alex shoots a seagull and lays it at Nina's feet, we're supposed to see doom on the horizon. When he emerges in the second act with his head bandaged, his fate is sealed. Mann's interpretation of the original ending is brilliant and unsettling. The payoff would be even greater in the hands of a more capable star. ●

Show Details

A Seagull in the Hamptons runs through April 25 at the Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). $15-$28. ShotgunPlayers.org

To share this story, go to: six.ly.py/seagull

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

LECTURES & LIT

Hugh Raffles

Bugging Out

Anthropologist Hugh Raffles gets personal with insects.

Working late at night in his upstairs room in New York City, **Hugh Raffles** hears rustling. "It's not the leaves blowing up against the windows. It's not a mystery. I know what it is. It's the big water bugs, the American cockroaches — doing what they do, going from place to place, up from the drains, not really wanting to be here, a bit lost, looking for something."

As an anthropologist who spends his life studying human beings, Raffles maintains a keen if unlikely respect for these creatures at the near-opposite end of the evolutionary spectrum. What excites him about insects is their diversity: "So prosaic and so exotic, so tiny and so huge, so social and so solitary, so expressive and so inscrutable, so generative and so opaque, so seductive yet so unsettling."

His new book *Insectopedia*, which he discusses at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, April 3, is a highly personal bug travelogue that examines cricket fighting in China, locust-eating in Nigeria, stag-beetle fads in Japan, balloon flies in Switzerland, and dozens more points of intersection between two-legged and six-legged creatures.

In some chapters, Raffles studies people who study insects, so we meet Tokyo entomologist Yajima Minoru, who dates his interest in bugs back to a horrible day when, as a fourteen-year-old boy during World War II, he watched a dragonfly calmly lay eggs amid a bomb crater's smoldering wreckage. And we meet Cornelia Hesse-Honegger, a Swiss painter whose devotion to charting the effects of radioactivity on insects — missing legs, stunted antennae, bizarre growths — took her to Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, and nuclear power plants all over the world.

Other chapters roam the chambers of Raffles' own head, connecting his hopes and fears with real-life insect facts. That bugs appear in his nightmares so frequently is no surprise. "There is the nightmare of unguarded orifices and the nightmare of vulnerable places. … There is the nightmare of awkward flight and the nightmare of clattering wings. There is the nightmare of entangled hair and the nightmare of the open mouth. There is the nightmare of long, probing antennas emerging from the overflow hole in the bathroom sink" — which brings us to that rustling in the night. Raffles says he has to kill cockroaches on sight because they terrify his wife.

"She freaks out when she sees one: she hides, she shakes, her body goes into spasm. Once she sees one, I can't just pretend to have killed it." Even as he slays them, Raffles — who won the Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing for his previous book *In Amazonia: A Natural History* — can't help but admire his tiny victims and their kind, because "they are so busy, so indifferent, and so powerful. They'll almost never do what we tell them to do. They'll rarely be what we want them to be." 4 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story, type: ebx.sy/buggingout

LECTURES

artBEATS! The monthly Auction series for collectors takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m. $6-$8. Auctions by the Bay Theater, Alameda Point Naval Air Station (Alameda Point), Alameda. 510-263-5220. AuctionsbytheBay.com.

Berkeley Center for New Media/Art Technology & Culture Colloquium (ATC) Presents Anne Walsh and Chris Kubick, Discussing 7 Years of Collaboration Mon., April 5, 1:30-3 p.m. free. Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, Berkeley. 510-642-6090.

Encounter Point Screening of the film by Ronit Avni and Julia Bacha as part of the Betrayed Lives series. Fri., April 2, 7-9 p.m. [illegible]. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-843-4934. [illegible]

Film Screening: *The Seed* Film about an Ethiopian orphan directed by Joshua Bee Alafia. Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m. $10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

If Only I were an Indian Documentary by John Paskievich about the European fascination with Native American culture. Wed., April 7, 1:30 p.m. free. The Fellowship of Humanity, 390 27th St. (near 28th St.), Oakland. www.humanisthall.net

Jeffrey Silverman Lecture by a UC Berkeley graduate student. Wed., April 7, 7 p.m. free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Kala Fellowship Talk: Chris Duncan and Laura Boulter Wed., March 31, 7 p.m. free. Kala Art Institute, 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Screening of *The Greater Circulation* by [illegible]. Art Director will appear in person. Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m. $5. Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818. HumanistHall.net.

Vile Account: Words/ Action/ Architecture Public lecture sponsored by the Technology and Society Lecture Series. Wed., March 31, 7:30-8:30 p.m. free. Lisser Hall Theater, Mills College, Oakland. Mills.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

Bay Area Poets Chamber Open Reading First Saturday of every month, 3-5 p.m. free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-848-6336.

Book Exchange April 3-4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Book Exchange, 10520 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-528-1341.

Book Smart Exhibit chronicling Elliott's enduring connection to literature and literature. April 1-30. free. Oakland Public Library: Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049. OaklandLibrary.org.

California of the Past Digital storytelling station allows visitors to record personal testimonials. Daily. free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. www.haywardca.gov

Catherine M. Cole in Conversation with [illegible] Discussing *Performing South Africa's Truth Commission: Stages of Transition*. Wed., March 31, 5:30-7 p.m. free. University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley. 510-642-4247. UCPress.edu.

Donna V. Jones Discussing *The Racial Discourses of Life Philosophy: Négritude, Vitalism, and Modernity*. Tue., April 6, 6:30-8 p.m. free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0585. UniversityPressBooks.com.

Drop-In Homework Culture for grades 3-6 Tue., April 6, 3:15-5:15 p.m.; Thu., April 8, 3:15-5:15 p.m.; Tue., April 20, 3:15-5:10 p.m.; Thu., April 22, 3:15-5:10 p.m.; Tue., April 27, 3:15-5:15 p.m.; Thu., April 29, 3:15-5:15 p.m. free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

An Evening with Author [illegible] Bay Area actors Howard Dillon, [illegible], Sandra Goldwater and Michael Vaughn also perform a staged reading of [illegible] short story "Wedding Dance." Mon., April 5, 7:30-9 p.m. free. Berkeley City Club, 2315

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2048: humanity's agreement to live together
kirk boyd
WED APR 14 7PM
Launch party for this UCB law professor's book envisioning a new global social order.

margaret ronda & brian teare
SUN APR 18 3PM
Local poets read from their new collections. Ronda's debut is *Personification*, and Teare's latest is *Sight Map*.

the secret miracle
daniel alarcón
TUES APR 20 7PM
The celebrated local author discusses his new anthology on writing, a novelist's handbook.

a thousand sisters
lisa shannon
SUN APR 25 3PM
The founder of Run for Congo Women presents her new book, a "Journey Into the Worst Place on Earth to Be a Woman."

All events listed are free and open to the public.

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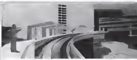
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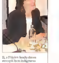
PICKS

Deborah Brautigam


Deborah Brautigam.

China has lots of money to spend, and has been sending some of it to Africa — funding pariah regimes, exploiting workers, damaging natural resources, and more. In Room 101 of UC Berkeley's **Moffitt Library** on Thursday, April 1, Professor of International Development **Deborah Brautigam** discusses her book *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa*. Noon, free. Africa.Berkeley.edu — *Anneli Rufus*

Beeswax Launch Party

Published by Oakland's Volta Press, *Beeswax* magazine features the work of local, national, and international artists and writers. At a **launch party** for its sixth issue at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Apr. 2, contributors Hugh Behm-Steinberg, Marissa Bell Toffoli, Sean Labrador Y Manzano, and Steffi Drewes join co-editors John Peck and Laureen Mahler. 7 p.m., free. Diesel.indiebound.com — *A.R.*

Matthew Zapruder, Jessica Fisher, and Jesse Nathan

Launch [illegible] start National Poetry Month at **Pegasus** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Apr. 5. **Matthew Zapruder** (*Come On All You Ghosts*) has won a William Carlos Williams Award, a May Sarton Award, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship. **Jessica Fisher** (*Frail-Craft*) has won a Yale Younger Poets Award. **Jesse Nathan** is a *McSweeney's* editor. 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBookstore.com — *A.R.*

Tess Uriza Holthe

Hiding in a cellar during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines during World War II, a Filipino family draws strength from indigenous myths and Spanish literature in **Tess Uriza Holthe**'s novel *When the Elephants Dance*. At the **Hayward Main Library** (835 C St., Hayward) on Tuesday, Apr. 6, Holthe discusses this bestselling book. 6 p.m., free. Library.ci.Hayward.ca.us — *A.R.*

L&L

Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

First Thursdays A monthly open mic with featured readers and/or a featured poet. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Hugh Raffles Discussing *Insectopedia*. Sat., April 3, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Jeff Lustig Discussing *Remaking California*. Sat., April 3, 11 a.m., free. Mayday Books, 533 University Ave., Berkeley.

John Gonzai Discussing *Talking With Sam: Conversations and Debates*. Fri., April 2, 1:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

John Soule Discussing *My Three Sons*. Wed., March 31, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

David Lale Gorton, night with Suzanne Jill Levine and Stephen Kessler Wed., April 7, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Laila Lalami Discussing *Secret Son*. Tue., April 6, 5:30-7 p.m., free. Mills Hall Living Room, Mills College, Oakland. 510-430-2255, www.mills.edu.

Middle East Garden Group Call Rawi Bishara at 510-893-2542 for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

New Audio Book Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features branch and online reference librarian, catalogue and database access, search box, pull-down menus, and RSS. Free. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Nested Book Store Sign up for this program and read the latest books via e-mail, or chat about books in discussion forums. To participate, visit OaklandLibrary.org. Free.

Poetry Flash Presents Molly Fisk and [illegible] Thu., April 1, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Poetry Reading by Jim Heynen and August Kleinzahler Thu., April 1, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Launch Party for Beeswax Magazine #6 Fri., April 2, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965, Diesel.booksense.com.

The Remainders Book Group First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m., El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991, www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/branch [illegible]

The Return of David etc. Featuring David Meltzer and Mark Coolidge Tue., April 6, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Salina Alame Discussing *Lyrical Line*. Wed., April 7, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Sharing Books We Love Class members take turns discussing a book that inspired them. Led by Cyndi Clymer. Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m., $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302, UUCK.org.

Steve Englehart Wed., March 31, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Teen Poetry Contest Maximum of 40 lines per submission. Winners will be invited to read their poems at the Big Book Swap Party at City Hall on May 5. Until April 29. Free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Centro Comunitario Asistencia Center Bilingual volunteers offer assistance in English and Chinese. Apr. 2, 1-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Second floor, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Democracy for America Meeting The Alameda chapter invites everyone to attend its monthly meeting for food, drink, and smart and progressive politics. Register at DFA-Alameda.com. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m., Pasta Pelican, 2455 Mariner Square Dr., Alameda. 510-864-7427, PastaPelican.com.

Food Not Bombs, Oakland Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs meals. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

Lawyers in the Library Legal information, resources, and referrals from the Alameda County Bar Association. Thu., April 1, 6-8 p.m., free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more literary events
at EastBayExpress.com
on m.EastBayExpress.com

Special Budget Session in Which The Oakland Fifty Oakland Considers a 50% Cut to Oakland Arts Thu., April 1, 5 p.m., Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland.

SPOKEN WORD

Café Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. Richard Moore, plus Paradise Freewheelin' and Ken Kirk and alternating sessions. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., donations requested. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

First Thursdays A monthly open mic with featured readers and/or a featured poet. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Hold Back A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 8:30-11:30 p.m., donations requested. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Kowloon Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-8 p.m., free. C'era Una Volta, 1332-1 Park St., Alameda. 510-769-4828, CeraUnaVolta.us.

Poetry Unearthed A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by poetry ensemble Tres Series. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. West Oakland Cafe, 3728 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-2933.

Thursday at Book Beat A weekly spoken word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. AngelFire.com/poetry/wordbeat. Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

Women in Progress Linda Zeisel hosts a women's open mic with featured poets. Sign up between 7 and 7:20 p.m. for 5-8 minutes of performing time. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9:45 p.m., $5 admission includes light refreshments. 510-376-0779. Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-339-1832.

Spoken Word Art Showcase and Oral History Night All presenters except for guest speakers will be allotted 3-8 minutes to tell their stories or present their opinions. Singing begins at 6:15. First and Third Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe Mocharina, 13700 Oakland & San Leandro. 510-351-3964. ■

BODY&SOUL

A Gland Old Time

The prostate is a pleasure zone says Dr. Charlie Glickman

When was the last time you said the word "prostate" and it didn't precede "cancer"? Slightly larger than a walnut and surrounding the male urethra, the gland serves other purposes beyond giving middle-aged men another reason to fear rectal exams. "It's a much neglected source of ecstasy," says sex educator **Charlie Glickman**, who discusses love techniques and more in a talk titled **"Prostate Play and Pleasure" at Good Vibrations** (2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) on Wednesday, April 7.

Dr Charlie Glickman

"Most men have never even considered their prostates outside the context of a medical exam, and that's too bad, because it means a lot of men are missing out on something that's really pleasurable," said Glickman. "There are a lot of reasons for this, but the main reason is in order to do prostate play, you have to be able to do anal play, and a lot of heterosexual men have concerns about what that might mean."

To relish prostate pleasure, men must be penetrated.

"They have to be on the receiving end," Glickman continued. "Many have mental barriers against that. And most women have never been on the giving end of penetrative sex, unless they've had sex with other women. So there are all these ideas that it's not masculine or not feminine to do this or that."

After becoming an HIV counselor in 1986, Glickman realized that "effective safer sex education had to include information on sexuality, relationship issues, and communication and negotiation," he said. "So I decided to start learning about these different topics and quickly discovered that talking and teaching about sex was the path I wanted to take." He has since worked with survivors of sexual assault and, as Good Vibrations' education program manager, taught dozens of workshops on BDSM, polyamory, sexual shame, sexual authenticity, and the relationships between sexuality and spirituality.

In this week's workshop, he will discuss how to stimulate the prostate safely "and combine it with other forms of stimulation so that it's more successful," Glickman said. "There are lots ways to pleasure the prostate, but the easiest way is to use a couple of fingers in that 'come-hither' movement. And many of the toys that work for G-spot play also work for prostate play. We don't have to reinvent the wheel."

Glickman wishes so many people didn't derive their ideas about how to have anal sex from watching porn. "Among other things, you wouldn't know from watching porn that you need a lubricant or any warmup. You do, and both of those happen in porn, but they happen before the camera starts rolling."

As he sees it, open minds make all the difference. "The world would be a much different place if more heterosexual men had been on the receiving end of penetrative sex. And for women, being on the giving end of penetrative sex makes them realize how much work it can be. It's another version of walking a mile in someone's shoes." 6:30 p.m., free. GoodVibes.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/pr/glickman

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization offers free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food vouchers, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1158 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979. APEB.org.

Breast Cancer Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Women Registration required; call 510-888-8013. Third and First Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Women's Cancer Education and Prevention Center, 450 30th St., Room 2810, Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Kerry's Kids, Salvation Army A mobile health van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and Head Start screenings entirely free to children. On-site physician is Diane Walberg, MD. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. First Wednesday of every month, 9:30-1 p.m. 510-444-4328. Salvation Army, 2794 Garden St., Oakland. 510-437-9437. SalvationArmyUSA.org.

PERSONAL GROWTH

"Carrying the Union of Love": An Evening with Alice Walker and Jack Kornfield Evening of meditation, readings, and conversation. Fri., April 2, 7-9 p.m., donations welcome. [illegible] Center, 1647 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-[illegible].

Finding the Heart of Pilgrimage Eight-week support group. Each person choosing a pilgrimage. Call Tina, 510-528-1330 or visit MarkFenger.com. Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through April 20. $250 for 8 weeks. [illegible] Institute, 1530 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Womansong Circle A monthly group led by singer-songwriter Betsy Rose, with special guests. The repertoire includes songs of peace, quests and protest, chants, folk songs, sacred songs, and humor. No previous singing experience or skill needed. Come early for potluck snacks and social time at 5:45 p.m. First Friday of every month, 7:15-9:30 p.m., $10-$15. 510-525-7082. BetsyRose.womansong.org. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center's [illegible] Rehabilitation Program This program includes instruction on beneficial exercises you can do at home, education on clinically relevant topics, and guided [illegible] in a supportive group setting. [illegible] takes place at 3031 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley (next to Whole Foods). Info: 510-204-1554. Thursdays, 10 a.m.; Tuesdays, 11 a.m. $64.

[illegible] Theology [illegible] Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through May 31, free. [illegible] Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

[illegible] YOGA Benefit [illegible] [illegible] April 2-11, 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Recommended donations. Center for Transformative Change (2584 Martin Luther King Jr. Way), 2584 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-549-3753. transformativechange.org.

Gentle Kripalu Yoga Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through May 1. $2-$10. Piedmont Yoga Studio, 3966 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Healing Yoga for Cancer Survivors Classes led by yoga instructor and cancer survivor Carol Love. Fridays, 12:30-1:45 p.m. Continues through April 30. 3 sessions for $30. Scholarships available. Yoga in the Middle, 20211 Patio Dr., Castro Valley. YogaintheMiddle.com.

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m., $10-$20. InterPlayce, 2235 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Introductory Tai Chi Class First Monday of every month, 6 p.m. Continues through June 1. The Seat, 2560 9th St., Berkeley. 510-548-5348.

Live Music and Vinyasa Class Join [illegible] and Daniel Tucker for a mindful vinyasa practice with live music. First Thursday of every month. 7th Heaven Yoga, 2820 7th St., Berkeley. 510-665-4300. 7thheavenyoga.com.

PICKS

Hakuin Discussion

Hailed for revitalizing the Rinzai Zen tradition, 18th-century monk Hakuin Ekaku was a prolific writer, painter, and calligrapher whose works have inspired countless practitioners. At the **Institute of East Asian Studies** (2223 Fulton St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Apr. 1, Buddhist-studies scholar **Masaki Matsubara discusses Hakuin's artwork** as a vehicle for spiritual, social, and political wisdom. 5 p.m., free. IEAS.Berkeley.edu

— *Anneli Rufus*

Pregnancy Singing Workshop

Assisted by the 20th-century German composer Carl Orff, Orff Schulwerk is a strategy for using music and movement to foster joy and interpersonal bonds. At **Loving Arms Childbirth Services** (808 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1[illegible], Albany) on Thursday, Apr. 1, Orff Schulwerk coach **Dale Allen Boland teaches chants and folk songs** aimed at preparing pregnant women for childbirth and parenting. 10:30 a.m., $15. DaleSingsU Weekly.com

— *A.R.*

Sanskrit Weekend

Used in sutras and the *Bhagavad Gita*, Sanskrit has been read, chanted, and meditated upon by seekers of enlightenment and inner peace for thousands of years. Learn how to pronounce its native alphabet with **"Language of Freedom: Introduction to Sanskrit Weekend"** at the **Center for Transformative Change** (2584 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley) on Saturday and Sunday, Apr. 3 and 4, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $270-$290. TransformativeChange.org — *A.R.*

Easter Services

Peace and social justice are intrinsic to spirituality as practiced at historic **St. John's Presbyterian Church** (2727 College Ave., Berkeley), whose programs and ministries reach out to seniors, the homeless, the poor, and other marginalized communities. **Easter Sunday services** on Sunday, Apr. 4, have a "come as you are" theme based on the notion that "God sees your heart, not your clothes." 10 a.m., free. StJohnsBerkeley.org — *A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

SIXTIES' UNREST RECALLED BY SATURN/URANUS OPPOSITION

For the week of March 31 through April 6, 2010

By Rallee Finn

Expect catharsis to be a constant companion for the next few weeks — especially when it comes to loose relationships that tax overwrought nervous systems. The fourth Saturn/Uranus opposition is exact on April 26, and as these two planets move into increasingly close contact, emotional bodies are going to pulsate with anticipation. For some, this fourth contact will clarify situations set in motion since the first opposition in the fall of 2008. For others, stagnant waters will become active, and while that may transform circumstances into troubled waters, one thing is certain. The status quo is shifting, like it or not. Of course, no one really needs astrology to recognize the mounting tension. The way things were is no more. But the problem is we can't see the future: we have yet to create it. And anxiety about the uncertainty of what will be grows louder with every passing news cycle. Handling the intensity of this shift is going to take stamina and strength, particularly the type that is willing to live as consciously as possible.

This fourth Saturn/Uranus opposition is the last in a series of five exact oppositions to take place in the Mutable Signs of Virgo and Pisces. Mutable Signs are the peacemakers of the zodiac: they mitigate between the Cardinal Signs that want to leap into action and the Fixed Signs that want to hold fast to a permanent position. It is possible to see President Obama's commitment to bi-partisanship as an expression of a Mutable Sign approach, which is a wise one because we do ultimately have to learn how to live with one another. Thus far conciliation hasn't worked. It has riled the right as well as the left. And the situation only seems to be getting worse.

The last series of Saturn/Uranus oppositions took place from 1965-1967, also a time of great civil unrest, and although I've written about this before, it bears mentioning again. That opposition occurred in the same Signs, but with reverse positions. Saturn was in Pisces and Uranus was in Virgo. It also seems the positions of the protestors are reversed as well. In the last revolution, women and people of color united against the status quo of the white man's system. Now, as that old system continues to fight for its life, the desperation of its last stand is clear. If you believe in evolution, a more enlightened world is inevitable. But so is resistance to the shift.

Evolution takes time, but that doesn't mean the growth won't happen. Transforming the toxicity of fear will test the mettle of personal and collective consciousness. Living consciously in the quicksilver atmosphere of the coming weeks and months requires a commitment to knowing that each of us has the power to change the world. It also requires one additional step. Rather than leaving it to the next person, be the one who makes the effort and tips the scale toward love.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES The reconciliation of opposites requires attuning to what unites rather than to what divides. Extreme circumstances are apt to stir extreme reactions, so do your best to stay neutral — but don't be dismayed if you find yourself tilting toward a favorite side.

TAURUS How can you share your gift with the world without sacrificing your personal life? There is no easy answer. There is only the tried and true method of trial and error, coupled with an ever-increasing trust in your own abilities.

GEMINI You're in the final phase of figuring out how to balance your personal and professional responsibilities, but that doesn't make the situation a *fait accompli*. Continue to stay focused on all the tasks that still need to be completed.

CANCER It's a crisis of faith, but not with a particular religion or spiritual practice. Instead, it's about your faith in your ability to create safety and security for yourself and your loved ones.

LEO Although the lessons might have been painful, the last year and a half has been all about coming into an authentic appreciation of your true value, which can never be measured by money. Let that knowledge galvanize your next step.

VIRGO It's been one long, non-stop relationship intensive, and you're still in the thick of it — so rather than polarizing, entrenching, or contracting, do your best to stay open. Eventually you'll find the calm you crave.

LIBRA The current situation is about balancing your internal and external worlds. I know the idea of balance is familiar, but establishing this equilibrium will require patience as well as skill.

SCORPIO You may be trying too hard to concretize an abstract idea. You can't control the outcome, so rather than wasting time and energy, simply let go and allow the situation to unfold.

SAGITTARIUS Your inclination is to hide at home and get lost in trivial pursuits. Not a bad instinct, but eventually you'll take a stand. Don't be surprised if those who agree want you to take a leadership position.

CAPRICORN The secret to surviving the tension is staying open and able to make the necessary adjustments in belief systems that may no longer serve you well.

AQUARIUS Just like your counterpart Leo, you've been learning lessons of true value. And while you may feel uncertain about just how much you've grown, you'll be pleasantly surprised as the coming weeks unfold.

PISCES Regardless of your relationship status, all of your partnership patterns are shifting. Contemplate what you want your new relationships to be, then get to work living that vision. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/aquarium

For More Info

Rallee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-337-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Rallee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Rallee Finn

First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the *Express* for more information on East Bay art showings

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, April 2nd.

ALAMEDA

Artobody Fine Art
1517 Park St.

Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

ALBANY

Albany Arts Gallery
1251 Solano Ave

Gatherings Tribes
1412 Solano Ave

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave

Sue Johnson Lamps
1745 Solano Ave

Urbanity
1687 Solano Ave

EL CERRITO

Eclectix Gallery
10042 San Pablo Ave

Fingado Art Gallery
7825 Stockton Ave.

KENSINGTON

Nan Phelps Photography
390 Colusa Ave

OAKLAND

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave

21 Grand
416 25th St.

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave

Awaken Café
414 14th St.

Blank Space
6608 San Pablo Ave

Bay Area Visual Arts Network
455 17th St.

Buzz Gallery
2318 Telegraph Ave

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave.

The Compound Gallery
6604 San Pablo Ave

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

The Crucible's Cathedral Gallery
1615 Broadway

Five Ten Studio
831 Broadway Ave

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave.

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave.
between Broadway and Valley

Hatch
492 23rd St.

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St.

Kubi Frames + Art
412 22nd St

Lumille
3960 Piedmont Ave

Luka's Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

LoBot Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Mercury 20
25 Grand Ave.

The Moon
447 25th St.

Oakopolis
447 25th St.

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Pro Arts @ Latham Square
1611 Telegraph Ave

Red Door Gallery
416 25th St.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rooz Café
1918 Park Blvd

Rowan Morrison
330 40th St.

Smokey's Tangle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St.

Studio Quercus
385 26th St.

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

The Sweet(I)Art Drawing Gallery
6602 San Pablo Ave

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave.

UrbanSpace Gallery
811 Washington St.

SAN LEANDRO

Anna Edwards Gallery
237 East 14th St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to promotions@eastbayexpress.com to be included in the May directory

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Rod Dibble tickles the ivories.

Lisa Dudley

STEAK LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

The Alley's cuisine may be outdated, but its comic-noir atmosphere and live piano bar are still hard to beat.

By Matthew Stafford

There are all sorts of reasons for going out to dinner that have nothing to do with the nutritional, and The Alley has been offering its patrons at least three good excuses for stepping in since it first opened its swinging doors eight decades ago this year. The place belongs to an era when saloons had themes: frontier Old dormered Old English, stein-and-lederhosen Alpine, red-damask Shanghai. The Alley's gimmick, as you might guess, is urban alleyway, a sort of comic noir milieu where the dim dusk is undercut by green-shamrock Christmas lights and the most dangerous prospect is too much vermouth in your martini. It shares a teeming block of the Grand Lake neighborhood with several Asian restaurants, Walden Pond Books, Charlie Hallowell's new Boot & Shoe Service, a chocolatier, a diner or two, the grandiloquent Grand Lake Theater, and two nearly as venerable saloons — raucous, blue-collar Smitty's and the dazzlingly red-plush Kingman's Lucky Lounge. The Alley sits smack in the middle of this light-strung/art deco/Spanish Colonial setting, a shack-like frontage in shutters and clapboard with neon sign and cartoon arched back alley cats a-beckoning.

Inside is a dark, low-slung warren of booths and alcoves made up of Formica tables, red leather benches, and what appears to be dilapidated old wooden fencing. Warm wood walls are limned with ancient hand-carved initials and are almost entirely plastered with cocktail umbrellas, faded snapshots, snatches of poetry, and 10,000 or so mostly unworthy business cards, many dating back to when Oakland was in the 415 area code. Valentines, leprechauns, and the occasional jack-o'-lantern add a timeless, year-round quality. There are narrow passages, leering pussycats, and dark forbidden staircases, and the whole place is laid out to make you feel like you've found yourself in some dead-end, low-rent back street a few minutes past the Witching Hour. This continues right on down to the interior rooftops, clotheslines, telephone poles, and silhouette of comely nudist behind shaded window.

The bar is the ideal place to begin the evening. It's tucked under one of the shingled rooftops behind a series of low walls, giving the space a cozy, secluded feeling. Lanterns, brackets, an old chandelier, and a fake parrot dangle from the eaves. A dozen stools are lined against the polished wooden bar, a repository of carnival beads, neckties, antique dolls, and an impressive assortment of headgear. The barkeeps strike a nice balance between sweet and snarky, and it's a relaxing place to sip one of the establishment's eight-ounce low-priced, high-octane cocktails, like an excellent unpretentious $7 martini. (The bar's list of "house specialties" makes no mention of orange bitters, elderflower liqueur, and the like.) The wine list is nothing fancy, to say the least, but it covers all the bases and offers eleven options by the glass or bottle, all of them in the $18-$38 price range. The beer list is more impressive, with a dozen mostly top-shelf brews ranging from Poppy Jasper Amber and Dogtown Pale Ale to Guinness and Newcastle Brown. There's a selection of nuts and chips available (the Alley's sole concession to the hors d'oeuvre trade), and munching and sipping to the sounds of Nancy Wilson and Astrud Gilberto is pleasant indeed.

When you're ready for supper, grab your cocktail and head to one of the darkling tables "outside." The menu is on the limited side — four kinds of steak, fried chicken, a hamburger (cheese optional), and a few side dishes — and the cuisine is best described as Mom's kitchen circa 1967. The thick oval of chopped sirloin was salty and juicy and especially satisfying with plenty of A-1 Sauce. The chicken breasts and drumsticks were straight out of the Shake 'n Bake playbook, salty and crunchy on the outside, nice and moist on the inside. And the fairly enormous New York steak was chewy in texture and not up to, say, Ruth's Chris hallucinogenic standards, but it was perfectly satisfying, arrived at the table medium rare, as ordered, and cost $18 instead of $45.

Each entrée came with four sides. The salad (iceberg lettuce, cherry tomatoes, red cabbage, and prepackaged croutons, natch) was served in a little faux wood bowl with a choice of creamy Roquefort dressing or an eye-opening vinaigrette. The mixed vegetables were your standard carrot-zucchini-broccoli-onion assortment, nothing special. The baked potato was a tad undersized, but it came with a little paper tub of sour cream and lots of butter, and the garlic toast was crisp and not overwhelmingly garlicky. (Thick, limp french fries and sweet, crunchy onion rings are available, as well.) Please note that the Alley is remarkably vegetarian-friendly for an uber-retro steak house. The salad, french fries, onion rings, baked potato, garlic bread, and mixed vegetables are available à la carte, or you can get a vegetarian plate (salad, veggies, garlic bread, and baked potato) for just $9.50.

The Alley's greatest attraction, though, isn't the food or the cocktails or even the goofy Dashiell Hammett in Disneyland décor. It's Rod Dibble, the man behind the big piano at the end of the bar. Dibble's been the Alley's cocktail pianist for half a century (a milestone surely worthy of mayoral proclamation), and in those five decades he's accumulated a repertoire of some 4,000 songs, most of them from the heyday of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, and the Gershwin boys. The sprawling piano bar — his office — is equipped with stools, songbooks, and a microphone, and everyone's invited to settle in with a drink, request a show tune, torch song, or Tin Pan Alley novelty number, and let loose with the vocal. Dibble is adept at nursing the inexperienced through unforeseen key changes, erratic tempos, and other landmines, but the general level of musicianship is high (various jazz instrumentalists and the Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus have sat in from time to time), and the pianist creates a relaxed, friendly atmosphere five nights a week. Drinks, ambience, dinner, and a show for under twenty bucks. May the Alley and its nuts endure for another eighty years. ●

The Alley
3325 Grand Ave., Oakland
510-444-8505
Cash only
Hours: Sun-Mon. 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Tue.-Sat. 5 p.m.-2 a.m.
Reservations accepted

Sample Menu

Martini	$7
French Fries	$4
Salad	$3.50
New York Steak	$18
Chopped Sirloin	$11.50
Fried Chicken	$12.50
Vegetarian Plate	$9.50

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/p/thealley

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person; $$—$10–$25; $$$—$25–$50; $$$$—more than $50.

ALAMEDA

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Asena 2508 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4100 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 1145 Park St., Alameda, [illegible] (Southeast Asian) $$

Havana 1518 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible] (Cuban) $$

[illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1888 (Kebab/Small Plates) $

[illegible] Table 3205 A [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-814-4879 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

The New Zealander 1400 Webster St., Alameda, 510-769-8555 (Brewpub/English/Irish/Pub/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $

Otaez Restaurant 1619 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Pappo 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9100 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5300 (Thai) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300 (German/Austrian) $$

Yume Sushi 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-1348 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible] (Eclectic/Exotic/Asian Fusion/[illegible]/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

[illegible] 1403 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-1331 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Al's Big Burger 431 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-1823 (Diner) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bui 1647 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-8478 (Vietnamese) $$

Café [illegible] 1393 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6069 (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Café Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5677 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

The Cape Cod 1150 [illegible] Ave., Albany, 510-528-3308 (Seafood) $$

Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-4198 (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006 (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/[illegible]/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

The Hot Shop 909 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-9018 (Mexican) $

Kathmandu 1400 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3222 (Tibetan) $$

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8814 (English/Irish/Pub) $$

[illegible] 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-9677 (Chinese) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838, 510-558-7183 (office) (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Nizza La Bella 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552 (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] Place 1417 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2330 (Chinese) $$

[illegible] 1820 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 1408 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2375 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 1207 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-8287 (Deli/Middle Eastern) $

Tom's Log Cabin 548 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-8484 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

ANTIOCH, PITTSBURG & BRENTWOOD

Kinder's Custom Meats 5431 Lone Tree Way # 10, Brentwood, 925-206-7007 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 5618 Lone Tree Way, Brentwood, 925-634-5288 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Mac's Old House 3100 E. 18th St., Antioch, 925-757-9888 (American/Italian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

[illegible] 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-9878 (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

[illegible] 2170 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-1898 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers Market, Berkeley 510-239-8298 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Arinell 2119 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035 (Pizza) $

Bangkok Thai Cuisine 1459 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese) $

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Caffè Venezia 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 1802 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1431 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegan/Small Plates) $

Chick-O-Pea's 1828 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Middle Eastern) $

The Crossroads 2415 Bowditch St., Berkeley, 510-643-[illegible] (Eclectic/Exotic) $

[illegible] Deli 2233 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9544 (Deli) $

[illegible] Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gelateria Naia 2106 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1580 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewpub/Pizza/Music Venues/Bars) $$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The Mint Leaf 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-7800 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

La Note 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535 (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $-$$

Pomegranate 1585 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] House 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $

[illegible] Organic Kitchen 2110 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-1489 (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San Francisco Soup Company 2512 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-7587 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Thai Delight Cuisine 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8618 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Top Dog 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Paradise 2001 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-4380 (African) $$

Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe 2468 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8200 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Udupi Palace 1901 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Venus 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Mediterranean/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$

Yogurt Harmony 2258 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Zabu Zabu 1919 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-848-9228 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-824-4652 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-7177 (Bakery/Mexican) $

[illegible] 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 (restaurant), 510-548-5049 (cafe) (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Cioccolata Di Vino 1601 Shattuck Ave. Suite D, Berkeley, 510-898-1392 (Italian/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

[illegible] 1185 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] Rose Street at Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Shattuck [illegible] 1500 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Nature's Express 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-5381 (Vegetarian/Vegan/American) $

Top Dog 1503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Tuesday Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe [illegible] 2[illegible] Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-4[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2[illegible] Telegraph St., Berkeley, 510-548-8425 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] Derby Street at Martin Luther King,

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Gather

2200 Oxford St., Berkeley 510-809-0400 Before opening Gather co-owners Eric Fenster and Ari Derfel had already accumulated the kind of cred that would stand them in good stead with their target demographic. Together they founded Back to Earth, an organic catering and outdoor adventures nonprofit. Derfel made headlines in 2007 for saving a year's worth of his trash to reveal the magnitude of modern wastefulness. Given such a pedigree, it's unsurprising that Gather is like the hot chick who knows she's hot. And in Berkeley what's hot is a seasonal, sustainable, organic, half meatless menu created by executive chef Sean Baker, a chalkboard on the wall listing this week's farms, tables made from recycled high school bleachers, being lodged in Berkeley's greenest building, the David Brower Center, and having an organic cocktail bar that offers small-cost gimlets and cucumber spritzes. Baker turns out wildly original dishes such as Calder-esque fried zucchini, pig-leg soup with kernel and a huge, glistening Lacinato kale salad with celery root, pine nuts, Spigariello-broccoli flowers, and Pecorino cheese. $$

Cesar Latino

4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-2290 Piedmont branch of the acclaimed Gourmet Ghetto tapas bar forsakes the mother ship's Spanish cuisine for an array of Nuevo Latino dishes, with middling results. Menu standouts include a moist, spicy pollo asado (baked chicken), creamy fried plantains, and several tasty tacos and empanadas. Get the *pastel imposible* (flan and chocolate cake) for dessert. Impressive wine and cocktail list. $$

Sfoof's Woofle Cafe

2554 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-548-9118. Order your own custom woffle — or "woofle," as they're called here — Cold Stone Creamery-style by choosing from among 27 sweet and savory toppings and mix-ins that range from pecans to coffee beans to cheesecake to Fruity Pebbles to hummus to pesto to garlic to Armenian sujuk sausage. "Sandwoofles," such as the BLT Bomb and spinach-hummus-avocado-orange Haas are bought fresh, and tasty made-to-order options for the waffle-averse exist, as are salads, house-made Middle Eastern pastries, and less-common side beverages including cardamom-spiked Turkish coffee, cherry-spiked café au lait, and cane sugar-sweetened Mexican Coke. But it's with owner Heda Cox's prolonged woofles (such as the cinnamon-pecan Cinny Bun and the lots-tastier Arabian Nights) and custom mix-ins — all baked to order and chapeauxically fluffy — that the dream really begins. Every combination unleashes its own chain of associations. $

Hibiscus

1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-444-2626 Chef Sarah Kirnon's nouvelle Caribe take on the carb, spicy flavors of her native Barbados stars at this moody, handsome downtown hotspot. Spicy Dungeness crab and grits, jerk Cornish game hen, stewed okra, and taro leaf and fried chicken with Brussels sprouts and creamed boniato are among the menu's standouts, the leaden, mealy pepperpot is easily avoided. Inventive cocktail list. $$$

Encuentro

202 2nd St., Oakland 510-832-9415 The creators of this cozy vegetarian winebar in Oakland's warehouse district include Eric Tucker, executive chef at acclaimed San Francisco vegetarian restaurant Millennium, and Lacey Sher, former owner of New Jersey vegan restaurant Down to Earth. Veteran home chef Linda Braz is the third partner. Artful sandwiches, the closest thing to entrées on a dinner-only all-organic menu include peppered portabello mushroom on a whole-wheat sourdough roll with caramelized onions, oven-dried fennel, smoked kumquat/almond vegan "cheese," and super aioli. Other standouts include black lentil stew, farro salad, and macadamia-paté-stuffed dates. The owners considered opening a vegan place, but in the end decided to serve cheese: This is a winebar, after all, with a wide selection of organics from small, independent producers. $$

Commis

3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. Star chef James Syhabout's intricate, unusual, and beautifully balanced creations are showcased at his sparsely appointed, white-on-white Piedmont Avenue restaurant. The three-course prix fixe menu employs locally harvested seasonal ingredients in striking and unique combinations: sweetbreads on a bed of rye berries and allium nectar, say, or Fort Bragg lingcod with toasted fennel, white beans, and seaweed broth, or a goat's milk panna cotta draped in beet blood orange sorbet and candied pistachios. The food is more memorable than the overall experience, though, especially at these prices. Wine pairings available for an additional stipend. $$$

R&C

[illegible] Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $
[illegible] 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1777 (Chinese) $-$$
[illegible] 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640 (American) $
Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley 510-843-6000 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$
Café M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-526-4429 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville 510-547-2662 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
[illegible] Island Café 2157 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-704-4883 (Caribbean) $
[illegible] 1600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-524-1887 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
India [illegible] and Sweets 814 University Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1290 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $
[illegible] 1306 University Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
Lois the Pie Queen 851 60th St., Emeryville 510-658-5616 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Priya Indian Cuisine 2172 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-3877 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$
Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-5160 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$
Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

CONCORD MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

Chola's 4375 G Clayton Rd., Concord 925-688-0716 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$
Chopan Kabob 2050 Monument Blvd., Concord 925-609-5466 (Afghan/Persian) $
EJ's Bistro 1875 Sutter St., Concord 925-825-3277 (Eastern European/German/Austrian) $$
Fatta's Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill 925-687-5454 (Greek/Turkish) $
Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill 925-798-2383 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Kinder's Custom Meats 1009 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord 925-825-8080 (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] Barbecue [illegible] St., Pleasant Hill (925) 685-3131 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
[illegible] 2950 Willow Pass Rd. [illegible], Concord 925-685-4800 (Italian) $$-$$$
Monte's Cocina Mexicana 2118 Mount Diablo St., Concord 925-691-6901 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $$

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small business MONTHLY

April 2010 A publication of the East Bay Express EastBayExpress.com

Can the East Bay Become the Capitol of Green Tech?

If it does, these five companies should be a part of it. — 14

By Michelle Quinn

Q&A — 15

Town Business — 12

Liquor Tax Hammers Brewers

A tax designed to make "alcopops" too expensive for teens has instead hurt local craft-beer makers.

By Alastair Bland

In the fall of 2006, concerned parents and anti-alcohol abuse groups set out to curb the proliferation of sugary hard drinks that appeal to teenagers. They were particularly worried about so-called "alcopops" — soda-like drinks that are fortified with alcohol, such as Mike's Hard Lemonade and Smirnoff Ice. So they convinced state regulators to levy a huge new tax on these low-priced drinks to make them less affordable for teens. But now, more than three years later, the alcopop manufacturers have found a loophole in the new regulations and the hefty tax is instead coming down hard on an unintended victim — small, local breweries. *Story inside*

Bay Curious —

Will the East Bay Embrace Fair Trade?

Berkeley and Oakland consider the fast-growing Fair Trade Towns movement.

Will the East Bay Embrace Fair Trade?

Berkeley and Oakland consider joining the fast-growing Fair Trade Towns movement

By Bernice Yeung

San Francisco, Chico, and even Bluffton, Ohio are on the official list of Fair Trade-friendly cities, but there are a couple East Bay municipalities that are noticeably missing from the tally.

Yet if all goes according to Billy Linstead Goldsmith's plan, Berkeley and Oakland will soon join the international roster of Fair Trade Towns, an effort that started in England a decade ago to raise awareness of ethically sourced products. Thanks to an infusion of cash from Vermont's Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, coupled with what appears to be a growing consumer market — Americans spent $1.2 billion on Fair Trade goods in 2008 — the stateside Fair Trade Towns movement has gotten a boost this year. "We've seen numbers that show that in this economic environment the ethical consumer category is growing," said Goldsmith, the national coordinator of Fair Trade Towns USA, a product of Transfair USA. "There is evidence of people determined to see the big-picture value of their purchase. If we can show consumers the added value we see in making ethical purchases of ethically sourced products, the more impact we can have on the market."

There are currently 14 Fair Trade Towns in the United States, and 38 ongoing campaigns (including efforts in San Jose and Palo Alto). To receive an official designation, each city has to meet a number of requirements, including the passage of a government resolution that supports Fair Trade. In Berkeley, a current draft resolution calls for the city to buy Fair Trade products in its offices whenever there are reasonably priced options, and to offer some educational opportunities related to the issue.

A Star Apple client grows food in the front yard

Star Apple Edible Gardens and Garden Fare

Additionally, using a somewhat confusing per-capita metric, a specific number of retailers and service providers in each city need to carry or serve Fair Trade products. The bottom line: Berkeley needs 40 stores and organizations to participate, and Oakland needs 120. The participating businesses are then included in marketing and outreach materials.

Organizers have been working closely with local businesses to promote the idea — which isn't as counterintuitive as it may initially sound. "Buy local, buy fair is our motto," Goldsmith said. "They're not competing because a majority of Fair Trade products are international commodities. What we want to do is combine messages: Buy everything you can that's locally produced, and those things we don't grow locally, buy on fair terms from a local purveyor."

Still, not everyone's putting their money on the Fair Trade Towns approach. "I think these promotions are, in theory, good, but at this point in time in the Bay Area, I wonder how efficient it is because I think that people generally know about these things," said Rick Young, the attorney who introduced the infamous 2002 Berkeley ballot initiative that would have required cafes to serve only Fair Trade, organic or shade-grown brewed coffee (the beans were off the hook). "It may be better for them to put their time and energy into other places."

Young continues to believe that mandating Fair Trade products is the way to go. "The more effective way is to consider some sort of law," he said. "If you want to make a bigger impact, you should just require it."

Participating storeowners, though, don't seem to mind the extra marketing muscle they're getting from the Fair Trade Towns campaign. "It's good to raise awareness for the consumer — if they have a choice of where they can go, hopefully they will choose to go to a business that does carry Fair Trade products," said Jeann Kim, the owner of Yogurt Harmony, which serves Oakland's Numi Organic Teas and Berkeley's Uncommon Ground coffee. "I really appreciate the efforts they're putting into promoting local businesses. It's nice to have a little bit of support out there. It's been a little tough with the economy lately."

Retail Tour: Urban Agriculture

From window boxes to edible rooftop gardens to backyard livestock, American urban farming is shooting up like a beanstalk through a crack in the sidewalk. In the East Bay, where Alice Waters and Michael Pollan feed our local food obsession, the USDA counted more than 1,150 farms in its most recent agricultural census, and given the growing home farms movement, edible gardens of all configurations seem to be sprouting up all over town.

"The country is a lot more environmentally conscious and gardens play into that," said Taja Sevelle of Urban Farms, a Detroit nonprofit that recently installed an urban farm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Oakland. "And with the economic downturn, the positive thing that is coming out of that is that people are going back to the basics of 'Hey, I can grow my own food in my yard' — it'll help my grocery bill and it's great for the family and it's peaceful and therapeutic and you know where your food came from."

With Oakland resident Leslie Bennett's help, there may be even more microfarms prospering from window boxes and front lawns across the East Bay. A suburbanite-turned-city slicker, Bennett never gave a second thought to farming. But when Bennett took a twelve-hour-a-day job to pay off her law school debt, she finally had to come to terms with the fact that she hated her lifestyle.

So Bennett quit her job and moved to Jamaica, where she began apprenticing at an organic farm. As time passed, she dug herself more deeply into the farming movement, and she realized that she could take help urbanites like herself reconnect with the earth. "When I switched to farming and gardening, I had this feeling like this was such a great change in my life, and that I can bring this feeling to other sad desk jockeys once they learn how easy it is," she said.

Earlier this year, Bennett started up an edible garden service called Star Apple, in conjunction with an organic gardening outfit called Garden Fare (MyGardenFare.com), which provides services ranging from garden design to weekly maintenance to vegetable harvesting. "I have a firm appreciation for just how busy some people are," Bennett said. "There are programs educating people on how to grow food at home, but it can be a big time commitment and no one offers a maintenance service. So I help them take that first step, no matter how small."

Bennett recently spent a weekday morning removing weeds and harvesting vegetables for a client on 54th Avenue in Oakland. The night before, she and her husband had gone to a client's home at around 11:30 p.m. to remove by hand the slugs that were chewing through the otherwise-thriving stalks of swiss chard.

All of the gardens Bennett has designed mix flowers with vegetables, which serves the dual purpose of attracting pollinating bees and adding visual panache. "I spent a lot of time trying to get people into environmental issues and I realized that food is such a great way to get people to connect to the earth," said Bennett, who used to work in public health policy. "Some people don't want row crops of food in their front yard, and people think it's mutually exclusive, but you can make it beautiful."

Bennett also sells all-in-one urban garden-

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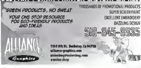
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ing kits made out of salvaged wine crates, and she teaches classes on urban gardening at BioFuel Oasis (1441 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley; BioFuelOasis.com), a worker-owned cooperative that's perhaps best known for converting a 1930s gas station into an alternative fuel depot.

BioFuel Oasis has itself become an urban farming hub. Novella Carpenter, author of *Farm City*, is among the worker-owners, and attached to the fueling station is a one-stop shop for urban ag accoutrement: beekeeping supplies (the store also rents out a $750 honey extractor by the day), rabbit feeders, books on rainwater conservation, hay bales, and heirloom seeds.

The store also is one of the few purveyors of organic chicken feed in the Bay Area, which is how it all got started in the first place. "There was nowhere to get organic chicken feed, and we, the five worker-owners, were driving to Petaluma and Livermore to get it," said Melissa Hardy. "We started stocking it and we filled a niche. It made sense to throw a fifty-pound bag of feed in your trunk when you come in for your biodiesel. The store rose organically. Sorry for the pun."

Urban chickens also have created a new niche for Michael Parayno of Berkeley Rustic Birdhouses (BerkeleyRusticBirdhouses.com), best known for his quirky handmade bird shelters constructed from recycled wood (which are then attached to antique cars and regularly paraded around town). Last year, with urban homesteading in full force, Parayno ventured into chicken coops for city living. "Chickens are just bigger birds," notes Parayno, whose uncle raised chickens on a farm in the Philippines.

Parayno makes a triangular European model on wheels, as well as an elevated birdhouse-like coop. Both are raccoon proof. "You basically need a locked door because raccoons will behead the chickens," said Parayno, who keeps two hens in his yard. "People find out the hard way. They let them go free range and then they forget to put them in at night. Chickens are a different responsibility and commitment. If you go out for drinks and don't put them in the coop, they're gone."

The East Bay is a place of plenty when it comes to urban ag-related establishments. Organizations like City Slicker Farms (1625 16th Street, Oakland, CitySlickerFarms.org) and People's Grocery (PeoplesGrocery.org) boost community food security by selling and educating the public on growing organic produce, while restaurants like Zatar (1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, ZatarRestaurant.com) and Taqueria Cancun (2134 Allston Way, Berkeley) serve dishes prepared with vegetables harvested from their own organic gardens.

Retail News

Closings. XOX Truffles (6126 La Salle Ave., Oakland) ... **Openings.** Mist (1950 Mountain Blvd., Suite 2, Oakland), an airbrush tanning salon; Sola Lucy (Village Square, Suite 150, Oakland), a women's clothing store; Yogofina (6140 Medau Pl., Oakland), a yogurt shop. **Also:** The Beauty Art Salon (6136 Medau Pl., Oakland) changed its name to The French Cowgirl Salon and now sells women's western apparel. ■

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Small Business Q&A

Starting a Band? Get It In Writing

East Bay Ray knows firsthand the perils of failing to come to clear agreement upon the contractual details of the music business.

By Bernice Young

East Bay Ray. Photo Vision

As the guitarist for the punk band **Dead Kennedys**, **East Bay Ray** has negotiated record deals, co-founded a record label, successfully sued band mate Jello Biafra over a royalties dispute, and devised creative distribution methods, including selling records out of the trunk of his car. After the release of an ambient record last year, he's currently back in the recording studio, working on a rock 'n' roll album with his new band, East Bay Ray and the Killer Smiles, which will be released this fall. We talked with East Bay Ray about the business of running a band.

Did the Dead Kennedys have a contract with each other related to how you'd divide up royalties and so forth?

With royalties there are two sources: Record sales and publishing, for writing the song. Usually musicians don't have a formal contract about these things and it can be difficult to bring it up in the beginning. But it's a good idea to discuss this stuff. Our original agreement was oral and then eventually we put it into writing. There were a number of years in between.

In a band, technically, if a musician hires everyone to play the music, it's not a partnership. But if you collaborate, then it's a default partnership — whether you recognize it or not, the law recognizes it. But how you divide stuff up should be discussed. The thing is, if someone contributes to a song, you should get a piece of it.

So for example, if someone, in one of the rehearsals, adds a part, then they get a piece of the song. That's how the Dead Kennedys did it. I got the idea from Los Lobos and the Talking Heads. The Talking Heads would divide one-third of the income of the songwriting to all the band members because the band added parts in rehearsal, and then whoever brought in the initial song idea would split the other two-thirds. Los Lobos does the same, but it's 25 and 75 percent, I believe.

But you still had problems with royalties.

You're probably familiar with our court case (between lead singer Jello Biafra, who withheld royalties from the rest of the band) and one of the issues there was Biafra thought he did everything, and the truth is that it was a collaboration.

When you're dealing with a person who can skim royalties from their band mates and have no qualms about it, nothing is going to protect you. If someone has plans to exploit other people and promote themselves and their image and not deal in good faith, it doesn't matter whether the contract is oral or written. But having something in writing is good if there's an honest misunderstanding or if people's recollections differ, which happens a lot.

How have you changed your approach since that experience?

Now I don't trust people as much, they have to prove themselves first. And with this new project, I talk to the guys. I discuss things and send an e-mail out that says "This reflects what we discussed" so that everyone has something in writing. This is to make it fair so that everyone has it in writing so there are no disagreements down the line. Or if someone gets delusional, then all of this is in writing. [Laughs.]

What advice have you given to other bands or musicians?

The band Cake from Sacramento, before they signed to a major label, we went to lunch. They asked me to look at the deal before they went on and signed it. It wasn't a bad offer. I forget the details, but overall it was good. There were some things I told them to change, and to look for, like packaging deductions. Back when CDs were popular, the label would give you 10 to 12 percent in royalties, but 25 percent of that goes for packaging, so you only really get a fraction of it. But that's negotiable.

I told Cake to get an escape clause so that if the record label doesn't produce, then you can get out. That's a bad situation for a band to be in, where the label owns the rights to your music but they're not doing anything with it.

How did you learn this stuff?

I got a book when the Dead Kennedys first started called *This Business of Music*. It has sample contracts. It's not rocket science. If you can play guitar or the piano, you can read a book and look at contracts. With contracts there are basically eight or nine points to look at — how long the contract is going to be, how much music you give them, stuff like that.

What other advice do you have for emerging bands?

One thing about a band is that you have to look at it like it's opera. It's about characters, costumes, and opera. Look at all of the great bands — the Beatles, Elvis, the Sex Pistols — and it's costumes, characters and music.

And there are three things that keep a band together and if you get two out of those three things, you'll stay together. These things are money, music, and friendship. If you have three out of three, then you tend to end up being great, like U2. But if you get two out of three — if you like the music and the money you'll stay with it, if you like the music and the people you're with, but you're not making any money you'll stay with it. But if you only have one

The other thing I see is bands that were starting out, they have one person pick up other people to go to practice. If you are babysitting people, it's not right. When the band gets successful it just becomes more weight to pull, and people need to pull their own weight. What people don't realize is the hard work involved. People need to pull their own weight

Ask Noah Alper

East Bay social entrepreneur Noah Alper has founded numerous businesses, including Noah's Bagels — the original storefront is still there on College Avenue in Berkeley — and Bread & Circus, now owned by Whole Foods. He specializes in concept creation, marketing, retailing, food service, and sales management. His new book, *Business Mensch*, was released last fall. To submit your questions to Noah Alper, e-mail them to Bernice.Young@EastBayExpress.com by Wednesday, April 14.

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A Small Business Disaster Preparedness Plan

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus Networks

We all have seen the pictures of the devastating effects of the Jan. 12th earthquake in Haiti. Thousands are dead and much of the capital city of Port-au-Prince is in ruins. This incident was a grim reminder to us as Californians of the devastation of earthquakes.

If another strong earthquake were to strike the Bay Area next week, what would happen to your business? Every business, no matter its size, should have a disaster preparedness plan. Here are some steps to take:

- Analyze the day to day operations of your company. Identify the components that are crucial to your business's survival and subsequent recovery. This may include payroll, accounting, and customer relation management systems.

- Schedule an appointment with your insurance agent to review your coverage and see if your coverage needs to be changed or supplemented. If you don't already have it, think about adding business interruption insurance which will replace any lost income should your company get hit by a covered incident.
- Nominate someone to temporarily operate your business in case you become injured or were otherwise unable to work. Perhaps an employee, a member of your board or an advisor?

- Of course, yours will not be the only business affected if disaster strikes. What other vendors/suppliers are you dependent on? Don't keep all your eggs in one basket. Find back up suppliers you can use in case of emergency.

- Back up and secure your data. Data loss is one of the most common problems businesses face after a disaster. It is crucial to back up your data in a safe and secure off site location. Janus Networks has solutions for just this situation.

Disaster planning can be a bit daunting and maybe even seem a little morbid. It is easy to put off, because we don't like thinking about undesirable situations. But, a little preparedness can go a long way towards recovery. Remember, more than half of all small businesses never reopen after a disaster. Will your be one that will?

You can contact the author at press@janusnetworks.com

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from get-go. That was true of the Dead Kennedys. Everyone was responsible and had a good work ethic.

You're known for some creative distribution methods back in the day. What suggestions do you have for that today?

Back when we were starting, there was a punk rock scene here. LA had a scene. So I financed our first single and Ted, the drummer, and I sold it out of the back of our cars. We sold 6,000 ourselves, which is very good. And we put them on consignment at the record stores. You can't do that much anymore because iTunes has killed the independent record store. But it is possible to have a corporate framework and still do that. A friend does poetry and she had a book published and she lives in Fresno. The local Barnes & Noble got a couple of her books and had a signing and they advertised it in local papers. So that was done outside of the corporate inventory and that's a good model because with iTunes and the Internet the brick-and-mortar is disappearing, which is unfortunate because I still like café society. But Amoeba still does that and I think Rasputin does, too.

How did you get your first record deal?

A guy in England wanted us to play in England. But he couldn't get us a show. He said the clubs don't want to book you on a single, but what if I find you money to do an LP?

He asked around London and Iain McNay from Cherry Red Records put up an advance to record *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables*. We put more than half of it toward the record and we took less than half for ourselves, and we thought that'd be the last of the income from the recording that we'd see.

That was a traditional deal — McNay owns the master forever, but he was a good promoter and the record was a big success in England. The band owns the publishing rights at this point as a partnership. We went to P&D deals with other labels, which are production and distribution deals, where the label gives you the money to manufacture and distribute the record but we still own the master from the beginning.

Because McNay still owns the master to *Fresh Fruit*, he probably makes the same amount of money as we do, but I don't regret it because he took the risk and he was good at promotion. We did a tour with that record and then we started making a living at it.

What was it like to suddenly make money with music?

At the time, I was painting apartments. Me and another guy were partners and we were basically cleaning up apartments after people moved out. We were setting our own hours so I was able to work it in around the band. Music is an up-and-down business, so after we started making money I spent the same as I was spending before. Some of the others spent it all and the next year, their income went down. So people react differently. But the music industry is up and down, so it's best not to do that.

I have a question from a friend. Now that Jerry Brown is running for governor again, will there be a remake of California Über Alles?

Wow. Maybe. ◆

Bernice.Young@EastBayExpress.com

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Partnerships That Pay Off

The increasingly blurred line between nonprofits and for-profits can benefit your business.

By Jenny Kassan

More and more for-profit companies want to save the planet and benefit their communities. Meanwhile, nonprofits are finding ways to generate revenue by selling products and services. What is the world coming to? The clear distinction between nonprofits and for-profits is eroding, but the legal regime has not caught up to this reality. Whether an organization is nonprofit or for-profit continues to have major implications for what it can and can't do and how it can be funded.

A nonprofit, tax-exempt organization can not have investors, pay dividends or conduct a substantial amount of activities unrelated to its mission (and what the IRS considers "related" is far from clear). It cannot confer benefits beyond those incidental to its mission on individuals or businesses. It must not pay more than market rate for goods and services.

A for-profit is rarely eligible for grants. It cannot receive tax-deductible donations. It cannot have volunteers. It generally must put the interests of investors ahead of any social mission.

But partnerships between for-profits and nonprofits can bring together the best of both worlds. Here are some examples of such partnerships:

New Avenue is a Berkeley-based business whose mission is to reverse sprawl and increase affordable housing by making it easy for homeowners to add small environmentally friendly housing units to their properties. Recognizing that these activities might be appealing to a philanthropic donor, New Avenue's founder partnered with a like-minded nonprofit organization to secure a grant from the Clinton Foundation to complete a model home.

One of Berkeley's Sun Light and Power's biggest challenges is finding workers qualified to install solar panels and water heaters. Meanwhile, training new employees is costly and time-consuming. So Sun Light and Power partners with Solar Richmond, a nonprofit organization that trains low-income community residents for jobs in the solar industry.

The Oakland-based for-profit Mandela Foods Cooperative partners with a nonprofit sister organization to raise funds from foundations, local government, and private donors to support its mission to bring healthy food to West Oakland and provide business ownership opportunities to low-income community residents.

Wealthy professional athletes set up a for-profit investment fund whose purpose was to invest in publicly beneficial minority businesses in low-income communities that lack affordable access to capital. A private foundation made an investment in this fund to further its mission of helping individuals attain economic independence by advancing educational achievement and entrepreneurial success.

A for-profit curriculum developer and a nonprofit college formed a limited liability company in which they were 50-50 partners. This LLC conducted a profitable teacher training business and the profits were split by the nonprofit and the for-profit.

A supermarket partnered with a nonprofit community organization to apply for a federal job-creation grant. The application included a business plan that described how the $700,000 grant would be used by the for-profit supermarket to expand its operations and place the nonprofit's low-income clients in the jobs that were thereby created.

A nonprofit organization built a shopping center and provided below market leases to local businesses in exchange for their promise to give first preference to low-income community residents when filling the jobs in their stores.

These examples demonstrate some legal principles governing the relationships between nonprofits and for-profits:

1. A nonprofit can pay a for-profit as long as the payment is fair to the nonprofit. For example, a nonprofit that receives a grant to build a model green home but lacks the expertise to build the home itself may contract with a for-profit to build the home as long as the payment is not above market rate.

2. A nonprofit can conduct activities that directly benefit private businesses if they further its charitable purpose. So, for example, a nonprofit whose mission it is to help disadvantaged small businesses can make low-interest loans to such businesses. And a nonprofit whose mission it is to help low income individuals find employment can provide free training services that benefit for-profit businesses.

3. Foundations can make loans to and invest in for-profit businesses if the primary purpose of the loan or investment is charitable or educational. This is called a Program Related Investment and it is becoming increasingly popular among foundations. The Gates Foundation has been one of the leaders of this movement. A new legal entity called the Low Profit Limited Liability Company (aka L3C) has been created by several state legislatures to encourage foundations to invest in for-profit businesses that commit themselves to charitable or educational purposes.

But partnerships between for-profits and nonprofits can bring together the best of both worlds

4. A for-profit business can enter into a partnership with a nonprofit and earn market rate returns on its investment as long as the partnership's activities further the nonprofit's purposes. So, for example, a real estate developer may partner with a nonprofit whose mission is to promote affordable housing. If the partnership builds a housing project, the developer can earn a reasonable return on its investment.

The law governing nonprofits' involvement in business ventures is not always clear and can be complicated. But there is growing interest among savvy nonprofits in creating mutually beneficial relationships with for-profit businesses. Smart entrepreneurs are making friends with their nonprofit neighbors! ●

Jenny@KassanLaw.com

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Want Your Customers to Buy Local? You Have to Earn It

And doing good is one way for your business to also do well

By Jonathan DeYoe

Every local business owner I know would be thrilled to read a newspaper headline proclaiming the success of the president's economic stimulus program. Although you can find several creditable media sources offering "data" to support the argument that the stimulus is working, just as many others make the case that it has failed miserably. In my opinion anyone trying to tally the score at this stage of the game is probably trying to sell something, because it's much too early to tell.

There is good news out there — but not for everyone. Some big businesses are starting to see revenue growth. This means their profits are being driven by increased sales rather than decreased expenses like layoffs and store closures. Yet unfortunately, this turnaround has not yet begun for many local independent businesses. Companies that weren't "too big to fail" have had far less access to stimulus capital and the revenue opportunities presented by the global marketplace and many are suffering. According to the National Federation of Independent Business, the Small Business Optimism Index actually took a negative turn in the March 2010 report.

That small businesses are experiencing an unprecedented funk could have huge consequences for every one of us, including big businesses. According to the SBA, firms employing four or fewer employees represent 99.7 percent of all employers, employ more than half of all private-sector workers, pay 45 percent of total private payroll, create more than 50 percent of non-farm GDP and generate 60 to 80 percent of the net new jobs annually. These workers are consumers, too, so we can't have a domestic economic rebound if small local businesses do not hire new employees.

Since successful small businesses hold the key to job creation, the message to the buying public should be clear: Buy local. But we can't rely on an ad campaign with a popular mantra to bring customers in the door. Small business owners have to earn those buy-local dollars. We need to be competitive on quality and price. We have to make products, offer services and provide experiences that are truly worthy of our customers' time and money. Otherwise, we should expect them to do the simple, convenient, cheaper thing, and head to Target.

Consumers hold great power in their relationship with the business community. If we don't give them a reason to buy, they don't have to buy. When times are good, competition matters less, but when times are tough and spending is tight, market positioning and competitive advantages become very important. Being a good business is not enough; you have to be great. More importantly, consumers have to know you are great.

How do you get the message out? Develop a community of happy, loyal, excited customers, and communicate with them. Ask for their feedback and tell them how much you appreciate their business. Never stop improving your product, service, or business environment. And don't ever forget that your customers' experience in your store or office is as important as the product or service you are offering. After all, it is often the experience that brings them back.

We can all name local businesses that have become institutions in their community. One sees the long lines out their door; you can't find a space in their parking lot. These are the places that become part of a community's "brand."

> Consumers hold great power in their relationship with the business community. If we don't give them a reason to buy, they don't have to buy.

What can you do to become part of your community's brand?

1) *Give Something Back.* Determine what is genuinely important to you in your community and then participate. Join a board, sponsor a team, raise some money, or buy tickets to that gala fundraiser. Sharing even a tiny percentage of your profits with local nonprofits is a powerful way to support causes you care about and generate positive changes in your community.

2) *Put your money where your mouth is.* Buy your books at the tiny shop two doors down from your office. Eat lunch at your neighborhood deli. What goes around will come around. Some of your favorite merchants will become your best customers.

3) *Create a sense of community for your customers.* A few weeks ago, Saul's Deli brought customers together to discuss the future of the pastrami sandwich. Every year my firm sponsors an evening of spectacular live local theater presented by the Shotgun Players. Clients love meeting each other at this annual event, and they talk about it to their friends and family members long after the curtain goes down. Find something you're excited about and bring loyal customers together to share an experience that will bond them to each other, and your business. ●

Jonathan DeYoe is a certified private wealth advisor and an LPL Financial registered principal. Securities and financial planning offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your attorney or accountant for such advice to determine what is appropriate for your situation. Info@DeYoeWealthManagement.com

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10:15 - 11:00 PM

THE CROSSTOPS:
9:30 - 10:15 PM

RED MEAT:
8:30 - 9:15 PM

KIT AND THE BRANDED MEN: 6:30 - 7:15 PM

MUSIC MEZZANINE

STEFFY SUE ON THE UKE

5:30 - 6:45 PM

Playing everything from cover songs to originals on the ukulele, the SF Examiner says Steffy Sue is "an impish, dark-haired pixie with a voice like a siren." www.myspace.com/steffysueontheuke

DEDICATIONS

7:00 - 8:00 PM

The Dedications are Carver Cordes, Austin Goldin, Robert Thayer, Jon Duarde, Eliot Curtis, Jamie Santato, Megan Dutra, Evan Roberts

CHONK AND THE HOOLIGANS

10:00 - 11:00 PM

"Eclectic, unbelievably clever anti-folk from Berkeley songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Brian Bauer, and his jugband of Hooligans!" –Tom Chandler Rasputins www.chonk.org

THE SHANTS

8:30 - 9:30 PM

The Shants' slow sound originates from the rural backgrounds of its members: from South Louisiana delta pines, to the brusk plains of Minnesota to the rolling hills of the Central California Coast.

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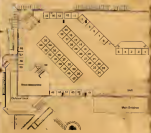
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www.blackcowboyassociation.org

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THE CRUCIBLE: JEWELRY FABRICATION

Led by Denise Taylor, jewelry instructor at The Crucible, this demonstration will illustrate how metal is hand shaped, cut, and textured to create jewelry, and will also demonstrate the process of chain making.

After working many years in the corporate arena, Denise Taylor began to explore her hidden inner artist. It didn't take her long to find The Crucible and their wonderful jewelry department, and after many classes, Denise became part of the organization. Denise's previous experience as a corporate trainer proved helpful in making a smooth transition to become an instructor. She loves helping students and watching them turn a piece of metal into something beautiful that is unique and truly their own.

WOOD CARVING

This demonstration, led by Cuban wood-carving artist, Felix Torres, will illustrate techniques used to design a carving and transform a piece of wood into a three-dimensional object. Felix is a popular instructor in The Crucible's youth and adult woodcarving classes, inspiring students to find their own creativity in carving masks, friezes, and other pieces of wood art.

SPINDLES AND FLYERS

Spindles and Flyers is a local group for people who spin yarns. They also weave, knit, crochet, felt, tat, sprang, learn, teach, share and love all types of textiles. They will be showing anyone interested, how to make a simple drop spindle from very low-cost materials as well as how to spin yarn on it. "Spinning can be very satisfying. We can help get you started and hope you enjoy spinning as much as we do. We can also answer your questions, help you find equipment and supplies, connect with other spinners and teach you more. We welcome interested people to our monthly meetings, September through June, often on the fourth Sunday of the month. Our group is part of CNCH, the Conference for Northern California Hand-weavers and Spinners, a regional organization dedicated to fiber arts and there's an article on Spindles and Flyers in the current issue of Fiberarts magazine.

www.spindlesandflyers.org

DE YOUNG ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The de Young Museum's artists-in-residence will be onsite to share information about their art practice and sell their work.

Featured participants include:
Kim Shuck
[illegible]
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Visit the de Young table and sign up to win prizes.

DRAWBRIDGE

DrawBridge: an Arts Program for Homeless Children. Serving children in the 7 Bay Area Counties of Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma

Now in its 20th year, DrawBridge provides art programs for homeless and other vulnerable children in an environment that fosters their sense of joy, creativity and exuberance. Beyond that, we strive to promote the well-being and stability of family by creating a supportive community in which the children help other children, establishing a lifetime of giving.

DrawBridge provides expressive arts programs for more than 1700 children through over 7000 site visits annually. The children we serve range in age from four to 16 and live in emergency family shelters, transitional and low-income housing sites, and domestic violence shelters. At DrawBridge they paint their story, they tell their story in words and that story is heard. At DrawBridge, children draw their dreams.

www.drawbridge.org

QUILTS ON DISPLAY

The purpose of EBHQ is to preserve and continue the traditions, culture and history of quilting; to promote fellowship among interested persons in all aspects of quilting, to contribute to the knowledge of and to promote appreciation of fine quilts; to sponsor and support quilting activities; to encourage quilt making and collection; and to contribute to the growth of knowledge of quilting techniques, textiles, patterns and quilt makers through educational meetings and travel.

East Bay Heritage Quilters http://ebhq.org

DrawBridge, a nonprofit that provides arts programs for homeless and disadvantage children, is the benefactor of the Taste for Artisans event. Bring any unused art supplies in exchange for free raffle tickets.

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Dan Del Grande of Bison Brewing Company believe the rules are poorly written. Bob McGrath

Town Business

Liquor Tax Hammers Local Brewers

A tax designed to make "cheerleader beer" and "alcopops" too expensive for teens has instead hurt local craft-beer makers.

By Alastair Bland

In the fall of 2006, concerned parents and anti-alcohol-abuse groups set out to curb the proliferation of sugary, hard drinks that appeal to teenagers. They were particularly worried about so-called "cheerleader beer" and "alcopops" — soda-like drinks that are fortified with alcohol, such as Mike's Hard Lemonade and Smirnoff Ice. So they convinced state regulators to levy a huge new tax on these low-priced drinks to make them less affordable for teens. But now, more than three years later, the alcopop manufacturers have found a loophole in the new regulations and the hefty tax is instead coming down hard on an unintended victim — small, local breweries.

Among them are Bison Brewing Company of Berkeley and Black Diamond Brewing Company in Concord. The reason is that these breweries are increasingly selling beer that they age in barrels that once held bourbon, brandy, rye, or rum. Such beers are favored for their potent flavors of coconut, vanilla, and butter, but they may also absorb a stiff shot of alcohol from the booze-saturated barrel wood. Although these upscale artisan beers are marketed to adults, they're now subject to the hefty tax originally meant for cheap alcopops.

And the tax is considerable. The standard beer tax in California runs 20 cents per gallon sold within the state. But under the changed rules, the state treats barrel-aged beers as if they were hard liquor and taxes them at a rate of $3.30 per gallon.

Craft beers are being hit with the high tax because when the bourbon or brandy in the barrel wood seeps into the brew, it raises the alcohol content. Parents and anti-alcohol-abuse groups decided to target such "fortification" processes because alcopops have been made in a similar fashion — by adding alcohol to a weaker drink.

Alcopop makers have reformulated their recipes and now the higher tax no longer applies to them.

But craft brews are expensive to begin with, and a tax hike of nearly 1,600 percent has made them too costly for many beer lovers. A 16.9-ounce bottle of North Coast's bourbon barrel stout, for example, retails at approximately $20 with the higher tax.

Dan Del Grande, owner of Berkeley's Bison Brewing Company, believes that the rules adopted by the state Board of Equalization were poorly written. And when his barrel-aged brown ale goes on the market later this spring, it may be subject to the heavy tax. "The people writing these regulations just don't understand anything technically about what we're doing in our breweries," Del Grande said.

Breweries like Anchor, Deschutes, Drake's, El Toro, Lagunitas, Magnolia, and Rogue have all worked with spirits barrels. Concord's Black Diamond Brewing Company has a particularly active program, with 22 brandy and bourbon barrels currently filled with beer. Brewmaster Derek Smith said he understands the state's concerns over alcohol abuse and cheap alcopops, but barrel-aged beers are about more than alcohol. "Gaining flavors from barrels is a true art form, whereas alcopops are just a way to put alcohol into a sweet drink, and they're aimed at a young crowd," he said. "Barrel-aged beers are for specialty high-end retailers."

The controversy over barrel-aged beers comes on the heels of a debate involving bartenders who infuse spirits with herbs and other ingredients to add flavors to their drinks. As reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control cracked down last month on bartenders who infuse. The state says that mixing ingredients and immediately serving them as cocktails is legal but that allowing the infusions to mature is a breach of law prohibited because it poses possible health risks associated with leaving foods on the shelf for long periods. But opponents of the crackdown, including the United States Bartenders Guild, have vowed to fight, arguing that liquors containing high alcohol levels naturally protect against pathogens and that the law is affecting bartenders unnecessarily.

The craft-beer industry, meanwhile, saw the tax problem coming two years ago, said Tom McCormick, executive director of the California Craft Brewers Association. McCormick attended a public hearing in 2008 at which he unsuccessfully urged the Board of Equalization members to amend the wording of the tax regulations and avoid an inadvertent hit to the beer industry. The board listened but made no such amendment. "Now we're just getting caught in the net," McCormick said. "The law's proponents were going after cheap high-alcohol drinks that people drink out of a paper bag, not craft beer."

Brewers point out that the state regulations operate in head-scratching ways. Many nonbarreled beers, for example, are yeast fermented to levels of 15 percent alcohol and more, but they aren't subject to the tax. But barrel-aged beers can have a lower alcohol content of 9 or 11 percent, and yet, under the revised rules, they're considered a distilled spirit subject to the huge tax.

The problem is that tax regulations were designed to nab alcopops — not craft beers. Alcopops are traditionally made by starting with a flavorless beer-derived base of roughly 2 percent alcohol by volume and subsequently fortifying it to about 5 percent using neutral grain alcohol, according to Del Grande of Bison Brewing Company, who's familiar with alcopop production. Under the changed rules, that type of fortification qualifies the drink as a distilled spirit subject to the higher tax.

Similarly, some barrel-aged beers can gain as much as two percentage points of alcohol by volume — far exceeding the half percent increase that the Board of Equalization decided would be the fortification limit before a beverage must be classified and taxed as a distilled spirit. "I can make a 13- or 14-percent beer with no problem," explained brewmaster Steve Altimari at Valley Brewing Company in Stockton. "But if I put a 10-percent beer in a barrel and it gains a half percent alcohol, then it's a distilled spirit and I have to pay a tax."

However, the original backers of the new tax regulations appear to have little sympathy for craft brewers. In an interview, Michele Simon, research and policy director of the Marin Institute, an anti-alcohol-abuse organization in San Rafael that was one of several groups that initially petitioned the state to tax alcopops as distilled spirits, seemed unconcerned that an effort to go after "soft" drinks aimed at children had ensnared craft brews meant for adults. "It's typical of people to whine about new regulations causing them problems," Simon said. "We're busy trying to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors, and it's up to them to figure out how to reformulate their recipes."

But it's the alcopop makers who have reformulated their recipes since the higher tax took effect about eighteen months ago. And now the higher tax no longer applies to them. Board of Equalization spokeswoman Anita Gore said that after the tax was approved, major alcopop producers crafted new product formulas that allowed them to dodge the tax, while still selling sweet soda-like drinks with as much alcohol as the average pale ale.

Mike's Hard Lemonade Company, one of the nation's biggest alcopop producers, has reported to the state that 27 flavors of its leading product line no longer meet the definition of a "distilled spirit." Diageo-Guinness USA Inc. has reported that 14 flavors of Smirnoff Ice drinks do not fit the bill. Anheuser-Busch has reported that seven Bacardi brand beverages formerly fortified with liquor no longer are.

The change of recipe for alcopop makers was simple, according to Del Grande, who said he learned the details through conversations with a producer. He said that instead of fortifying their drinks with alcohol, the alcopop manufacturers just reversed the process. They now start with a clear malt beverage base — by definition a beer — of about 8 percent alcohol by volume and blend down the strength with syrups, flavorings, and water. Although they add no distilled spirits, the final product has about the same alcohol content as a traditional alcopop and is still as sweet as ever and still readily available today — and yet free of the higher liquor tax. "They just skirted the law," Del Grande explained, "and these alcopops are still out there."

Some craft brewers, such as North Coast Brewing Company, have decided to just pay the tax, but others are following the alcopop makers' lead. Altimari of Valley Brewing Company in Stockton slightly dilutes his barrel-aged beers with weaker ales. That way there is no fortification process that would trigger the higher tax. Altimari has also rinsed out new barrels with water to remove any lingering pools of whiskey, though he wishes he didn't have to. "I'd love to soak up my beer with bourbon if I could," he said.

In the coming year, Black Diamond's Derek Smith said he plans to release multiple batches of bourbon and brandy barrel beers, and he also doesn't plan to pay a dime in alcopop taxes. Like Altimari and others, he will simply blend down his barrel-aged beers to keep them out of the distilled spirit tax bracket. It's probably the easiest legal fix there is. But the required paperwork, Smith said, is a different story. "Since the law passed, it's now up to us to submit these reports proving that every single new beer we make isn't fortified with other alcohols," he said. "I'm not a big fan of alcopops myself and I understand what they're trying to achieve, but it's been a pain in the ass." ●

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Profiles

Five Green Firms to Watch

BrightSource Energy, EarthSource Forest Products, Makani Power, the Reuse People, and Sungevity

By Michelle Quinn

If the green economy really takes off, the East Bay may have a strong claim as its capital. Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, and Alameda are headquarters for a growing number of environmental consulting companies in sectors such as wind, solar, construction, and energy efficiency. Oakland alone is home to more than sixty green consulting companies that employ 500 people, according to city officials.

Here are five companies to watch.

Makani Power

What if the wind could be harnessed to produce energy at such a low cost that it undercuts the cost of coal, considered the least expensive source of energy on the planet? That's the goal of Makani Power, an Alameda firm that harvests the wind by sending tethered airfoils 1,000 feet up in the air to sweep the sky.

Workers at the Reuse People move some of the facility's inventory Chris Duffey

Corwin Hardham, Makani's chief executive officer, said this approach will produce more energy with less material for a lower cost of energy than wind turbines. The airfoil is a high-performance wing that is tethered to the earth with a flexible cable and steers like an aircraft under computer control. The wing sweeps through the sky and harvests more wind energy than wind turbines, which require heavy towers and supporting infrastructure.

Founded in 2006, the company is developing small-scale prototypes at its headquarters in Alameda in the hopes of developing utility-sized systems. Makani, named after the Hawaiian word for wind, has received $15 million in funding from Google.org, the philanthropic arm of the Internet company. It employs eighteen people.

The firm is currently testing prototypes capable of producing 10 kilowatts. These small prototypes are large enough to provide power for up to five homes and have much in common with the utility-scale production wings Makani hopes to develop. Using these prototypes, this year the company aims to demonstrate the performance and the safety of the system while it moves to develop the design of a utility-scale system.

BrightSource Energy

This year BrightSource Energy is planning to break ground on a solar thermal power station in the Mojave Desert.

Once built, the Ivanpah Solar Energy Generating Station will be comprised of three individual power plants that will collectively produce approximately 400 megawatts, enough to power 140,000 California homes. Its source will come from steam heated by thousands of mirrors concentrating sunlight. BrightSource's project in the desert could be one of the largest utility-scale solar projects built in more than twenty years. The company, with the backing of Google.org, Morgan Stanley, Chevron, BP Alternative Energy, and a host of others, has plans to build a total of fourteen power plants by 2016.

BrightSource, which employs 52 people at its Oakland headquarters and about 150 others worldwide, has been at the center of a struggle between environmentalists and those who want to quickly increase the state's clean energy sources. Environmentalists have raised concerns that the project would disturb the habitats of the desert tortoise and rare plants in the Southern California region. In addition,

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some complain that the plants and mirrors will mar the beauty of the region. In response, the company reduced the size of the location it would occupy. While that did not satisfy environmental groups, earlier this month, staff members with the California Energy Commission have recommended approval of this project, which still must receive approval of the entire board as well as federal approval since the plants will be on land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

After more than two years of environmental reviews, BrightSource is now in a rush. To qualify for a Department of Treasury cash grant, which is designed to offset 30 percent of the cost of the power plants, the firm must break ground this year. Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison have a contract with BrightSource for the company to deliver 2,600 megawatts of electricity annually by 2016, with the first 100 megawatts coming online in 2012.

The project will be built by Bechtel and is expected to create 1,000 jobs. Even with a federal loan guarantee of $1.37 billion, which will finance 70 percent of the project's costs, the company will spend the year focused on securing additional financing and obtaining permits for the three power plants, said Keely Wachs, BrightSource's spokesperson.

EarthSource Forest Products

When the Bay Area housing downturn hit, so did the market for hardwood lumber. EarthSource Forest Products, a West Oakland company that has been on the forefront of selling sustainably harvested forest products wholesale to the cabinet and furniture trades, has seen its business drop more than 50 percent from a high in 2007 of $24 million in revenues. The company employs 46 people, down from 60.

Founded in 1983, EarthSource gets its wood from vendors in Asia and Central and South America that have been sanctioned by the Forest Stewardship Council, a nonprofit organization that has been the primary group to judge whether wood products are environmentally friendly.

Jeff Hunt, the president, said the company is in a state of maintaining. Suppliers and customers have gone out of business. Even now with the market coming back a bit, the company's primary hope is that it can't borrow the money it needs to buy inventory.

"If we could buy more inventory," he said, "we could sell more inventory."

Environmental Services

The Reuse People

While reusing stuff is a central tenet of many environmentalists, diverting stuff from the dump is the ultimate goal. At the East Oakland site of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's of Alameda County, there is an industrial eco park of sorts with three businesses whose central use is to sell what has already been used.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's thrift store site in East Oakland began to sublet its space to two other organizations about four years ago. Now, other than the charity's retail store selling clothing and furniture, there is Habitat for Humanity's Restore, which sells primarily new construction materials from the after market that would have been yanked. Meanwhile, the Reuse People of America Inc., a nonprofit organization, is in the business of deconstruction. The firm deconstructs homes and buildings and then sells the supplies to people at its store rather than carting truck loads to the dump.

As the construction market collapsed, so did the deconstruction market, said Ted Reiff, the company's president. Its business is off up to 30 percent from last year, Reiff said, adding that its offices in San Diego and Chicago are doing better than in Oakland. The ReUse People employs 20 people.

Fortunately, the company has seen its side training business pick up in places like Muncie, Indiana, and Kansas City, Missouri, particularly for people 17 to 24 years old.

"Deconstruction training has gotten people's attention," Reiff said. "The beauty of deconstruction is they see every part of construction and they learn how to use the tools. And if they make a mistake, oh well."

Sungevity

Sungevity, an Oakland-based firm that sells home solar installations, already thought it had something unique. Its call center uses satellite imaging technology to look at people's homes and give them free, quick estimates online for solar installation. The company dispatches contractors to do the work. "We take the pain out of it," said Danny Kennedy, the company's president and a former Greenpeace activist.

Kennedy compares his company to Dell Inc., the computer firm that revolutionized the computer industry by cutting out the supply chain and selling directly to customers online. Since it was founded in 2007, Sungevity has installed almost 300 units, mostly in Northern California as well as recently in Southern California.

But the biggest barrier for most homeowners curious about solar remains the expensive upfront costs, which can be more than $10,000. So earlier this month, the company launched an additional strategy that it expects to dramatically increase its sales. Sungevity will install the solar system for free. The customer signs a ten-year lease and pays monthly service fees that are lower than their energy bills.

The lease model idea is already being used by a competitor, Solar City, a Fremont company. Recently, Solar City's chief financial officer Charles Ferer joined Sungevity. The idea is that Sungevity and the banks jointly own a homeowner's solar system. What do the banks get out of it? They use about 30 percent of the cost of the solar system as a federal tax credit.

The biggest challenge for this year, Kennedy said, is managing growth. In 2009, the company, with 75 employees, had $3 million in sales. It expects to reach 100 employees by the end of the year and boost revenues. "We'll do five times the business and as much as $20 million in sales this year," he said. "Our biggest concern is how do you grow by four to five times in a year." ●

Michelle.Quinn@EastBayExpress.com

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Chris Duffey

Derrick Rebello's Quantum Energy Solutions & Technologies will be running the program.

This Man Wants to Dim Your Lights

Oakland is about to embark upon an ambitious energy audit of commercial buildings thanks to the Obama stimulus money. It should save businesses money while jump-starting an industry

By Michelle Quinn

On a recent afternoon Derrick Rebello was walking in downtown Oakland when he peered in the window of Lee's Barber Shop at 1410 Webster Street. "That thing is horrible," he said, pointing to a bank of fat, old fashioned fluorescent lights. With just a few changes — better bulbs, lights on different circuits — he said Lee's could cut its energy consumption in half and still have more light.

Zeroing in on how buildings could improve their energy costs is what Rebello does for a living. Oakland's entire downtown will soon get the Rebello treatment with the "Downtown Oakland Targeted Measure Saturation Project," a cumbersomely named endeavor to make Oakland's downtown buildings — particularly the less high-end ones — more energy-efficient.

In the next two years, Rebello's company Quantum Energy Solutions & Technologies (QuEST), in partnership with other firms as well as business and community groups, will target a 100-square block area in Oakland that stretches roughly from Jack London Square to Grand Lake Avenue and from Lake Merritt to Interstate 980. The goal is to reduce the energy consumption in 80 percent of the buildings by 20 percent through the installation of advanced lighting and improvements in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, including the use of wireless technologies.

This project, which is supposed to begin this summer, will be made possible by a $4.9 million federal stimulus grant tentatively awarded by the California Energy Commission to QuEST and its partners. It is one of five grants funding energy projects that the city will be a part of, Oakland leaders announced in February. The others include a pilot retrofit program for multifamily affordable housing and help for local governments to improve energy efficiency

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in public buildings. In the Bay Area, the grants total $40 million and equate to roughly 4,000 jobs using a Department of Energy formula that assumes that every $90,000 spent equals a job created or saved.

It is too early to know how these projects will stimulate the East Bay economy, where Oakland's unemployment rate hovers at 17 percent and Berkeley's stands at 11 percent. But one thing that becomes apparent from talking about these grants with Rebello, as well as local and state officials, is that the money is allowing them to enact ambitious projects they only could dream of before. In a typical year, the Energy Commission spends about $3 million on its state energy program, mostly to support staffing, for building and appliance efficiency work, said Susanne Garfield, a spokeswoman with the California Energy Commission. The QuEST grant is part of a package of $150 million to be doled out this year. "This amount of money is the record for us," Garfield added.

Thanks to the stimulus money, the state will take a step closer to reaching its environmental goals. But what about the chief purpose of the stimulus funds, which is to revive local economies and get people working again?

Job creation was one of five criterion for sorting through the 104 proposals the commission received, Garfield said. Yet economic development isn't as straightforward as pouring money into a community. Another key is what is happening in the local economy before the money arrives and after it dries up.

Recently, the commission found itself in the hotseat over the issue of job creation. Earlier this month, Democratic Senator Alex Padilla, chairman of the state senate's energy committee, called on members of the commission to explain how Portland Energy Conservation Inc. from the state of Oregon was slated to receive $18.8 million, more than half of the $29.6 million awarded in one set of grants. The commission defended its grant by noting that the company would be training and employing young people in the California Conservation Corps to do energy-efficiency work such as an audit of refrigeration units, creating as many as 117 jobs in the state.

But Senator Padilla pooh-poohed the jobs, some of which would pay $8 an hour. "To think that the California Energy Commission, for all its history of being on the cutting edge of policy, is giving huge sums to a firm outside the state I think is unconscionable," the *Los Angeles Times* quoted him as saying.

Putting aside the specific number of jobs any one grant may create, the stimulus grants may serve to accelerate the realization of economic development centered around green jobs and training already underway. The East Bay Green Corridor, a consortium of most East Bay cities and other entities such as UC Berkeley, have pooled resources to jointly market the region and finance green job-training programs. Environmental policies such as Oakland's aggressive goals to reduce carbon emissions serve a double purpose in gaining the attention of businesses thinking of locating here.

City officials appear ready to lend a hand to such companies. For example, when Sungevity was considering moving to Oakland's Jack London Square from Berkeley, Oakland helped attract the company by talking about its forthcoming shuttle from BART stations to Jack London Square and Uptown.

In the case of QuEST's downtown saturation project, about 77 jobs are expected to be created. "It's not a lot of jobs, it's more than zero," said Rebello of QuEST. The numbers don't include jobs preserved from reducing costs or from training contractors on advanced technologies that will help their businesses, he said. In addition, QuEST and its partners will tap into the Oakland Green Jobs Corps, a consortium training low-income people for so-called "green-collar jobs." Graduates will be introduced to installation contractors and internships will be provided to those who are thinking about two- or four-year college programs.

QuEST will work with Energy Solutions, a municipal energy retrofit assistance program in Oakland, Renewable Funding, an energy financing firm, and Koma, an energy consulting firm.

Environmental Services

Other than saving Oakland businesses $1.1 million annually in energy costs and reducing greenhouse gases by 2,600 tons, the goal is to introduce emerging advanced technology that the energy commission wants to make standard, such as advance lighting controls, which are generally more expensive, said Rebello, the company's president.

The plan involves a coordinated approach to building owners, offering them a comprehensive energy plan that would include lighting, heating, financing, and other resources. Half the money will finance operations and half will go for incentives to owners who upgrade their buildings. Although high-end commercial buildings will also be eligible for the audits, the project targets second- and third-tier commercial buildings, which tend to be older and have been largely ignored by the energy-efficiency industry. When Rebello asked the commission why his plan was awarded the grant, they told him, "saturation."

The project faces some challenges. A team of people, some of whom don't know each other well — environmental consultants, Pacific Gas & Electric, community groups, merchant associations, chambers of commerce — will have to work together. And there will be some general resistance. Many building owners have had to hunker down to get through the past few years, and may not have resources to put toward energy efficiency. That's why how building owners are approached is critical, Rebello said. "We'll have one, maybe two, shots at them," he said. "We have to get it right."

If 80 percent of the buildings participate, building owners will have to shell out roughly another $2 million for renovations, although Rebello believes that these contributions will typically be offset by energy savings after two years. "When people have a reason not to do it, we'll find a resource," Rebello said. Financing the work will involve a variety of options, such as incentives or property tax payments, as well as third party financing, said Susan Kattchee, Oakland's environmental services manager.

The ultimate aim for Rebello, who has a Ph.D in economics, is what happens after the project. If the Oakland plan works, it can serve as a model to other cities seeking to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gases, he said. "If we can't do it with the resources we're throwing at it, then what?" ■

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Willard Welch, conference keynote speaker

Act Global, Think Social

Global Social Venture Conference rewards entrepreneurs for social impact.

The average business plan looks at projected earnings and ways to optimize revenue. But a stellar business plan might also consider social or ecological impacts. Such was the impetus for Haas School of Business' **Global Social Venture Conference**, an annual event that hinges on a global business plan competition. Now in its twelfth year, the conference allows sixteen teams to compete for a top prize of $25,000 awarded for creativity, viability, and maximized social dimensions. The guidelines give contestants a lot of latitude — past submissions focused on water treatment, medicine, and international aid — though the judging process is meticulous. This year, sixty teams went through the initial screening process by submitting a five-page executive summary; twenty-five were invited to proceed with a full business plan, and twenty-three wound up participating in the semifinals. Of those, eleven will compete for the $25,000 grand prize, and five will jockey for a second-place prize of $5,000, based on the rigor of their social impact. All that work pays dividends whether you win or lose, said conference spokesperson Jill Erbland. "At a minimum, if you submit an executive summary, you're being judged by professionals who can give valuable feedback," she explained. "Sometimes a judge might see something of interest and contact the team separately. Sometimes someone from the audience might even be interested." The 2010 conference takes place Thursday and Friday, April 22-23 at **David Brower Center** (2150 Allston Way, Berkeley). It includes breakfast, a keynote lunch, and breakout sessions, and caps off with an awards dinner at the **Hotel Shattuck Plaza** (2086 Allston Way, Berkeley). 840-6150. GSVC.org.

— *Rachel Swan*

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Classes & Workshops

ABAG Spring General Assembly and Regional Summit Conference for local elected officials, city planners, city managers, transportation leaders, developers, as well as transportation and smart growth advocates, community and business leaders. Thu., April 22, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. $85-$110. Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway, Oakland. 510-464-7900.

Economic Development Forum For members of Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Guest passes available. Wed., April 14, 3-4:30 p.m. Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 475 14th St., Oakland.

Email Basics Introductory computer class. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 1:30-3 p.m. Continues through April 1. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ex. 118. OJTRC-CC.org.

Excel Part I Computer basics class. Tuesdays, 1-2:30 p.m. Continues through April 13. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ex. 118. OJTRC-CC.org.

[illegible] Sessions Seminars by visiting professors held in C220 Cheit Hall. For more info: e-mail June Wong (junefhaas.berkeley.edu). Starting April 1, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through April 29. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7988. Haas.berkeley.edu.

Free and Low-Cost Job Training in East Contra Costa County Presented by Opportunity Junction. Tue., April 20, 2 p.m. Free. Antioch Library, 501 W. 18th St., Antioch. 925-757-2224.

Grantseeking Basics with Foundation Directory Online Workshop for nonprofit organizations seeking money from foundations, corporations, and charities. Fri., April 30, 3-5 p.m. Free. Las Positas Community College, 3000 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore.

Investing in Real Estate Using Your Self-Directed IRA Thu., April 29, 7-8 p.m. Free. Legacy Real Estate & Associates, 41111 Mission Blvd., Fremont.

Opportunity Junction Workshop: Free and Low-Cost Job Training in East Contra Costa County Wed., April 28, 2 p.m. Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Rd., Clayton. 925-673-0659. ClaytonLibrary.org.

Personal Financial Planning for Musicians Adam Messinger, financial advisor with Merrill Lynch, discusses financial options for self-employed professionals. Sun., April 18, 2-4 p.m. Free. Jazzschool, 2087 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-845-5373. Jazzschool.com.

Pricing Centric [illegible] Program with Professor Teck Ho Four-day [illegible] program held in the UC Berkeley Center for Executive Education. Visit ExecutiveBerkeley.edu to register. April 27-30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., $3,700-$4,200. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7989. Haas.berkeley.edu.

The Spring 2010 Management of Technology Lecture Series: An Inside Track in What's New and What's Next With Aart de Geus, chairman and CEO of Synopsys. Wed., March 31, 4-6 p.m. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7880. Haas.berkeley.edu.

The Spring 2010 Management of Technology Lecture Series: An Inside Track in What's New and What's Next with Randy Komisar, partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers (KPCB). Wed., April 28, 4-6 p.m. Free. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7989. Haas.berkeley.edu.

Starting & Managing Your Small Business Full-day workshop covers business plans, accounting, insurance, tax, employment, marketing, and other logistics. For info, visit EastBaySbdc.org. Thu., April 8, 8:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $45. Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

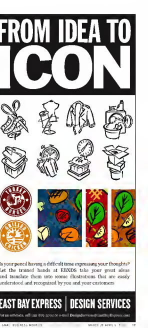
Starting & Managing Your Small Business Workshop Full-day workshop covers business plans, accounting, insurance, tax, employment, marketing, and other logistics. For info, visit EastBaySbdc.org. Thu., April 29, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $45. San Ramon Community Center and Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3200. SanRamonValleyHistory.org.

Successful Business Plans Workshop Workshop goes over the problems of growth, capital, communicating with employees, and other logistics. Call Paula Graves-Hawthorne at 510-208-0430. Thu., April 1, 2-5 p.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Tax Assistance Trained AARP volunteers offer tax assistance. Bring last year's return and all 2009 tax forms. Also available at Temescal Branch (5205 Telegraph Ave.) and at the Main Library (125 14th St.) on Monday, April 5, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thu., April 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5023. OaklandLibrary.org.

Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce Monthly Education Committee Meeting Committee of business, education and civic leaders who collaborate with local organizations to facilitate student's transition from school to work. For info, call Patty Lugson at 925-934-2007. Wed., April 14, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Wed., May 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Free. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1777 Botelho Dr. #103, Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007.

Webinar on Commercial Trade Sales and Apartment Foreclosures Register at GetaMeeting.com. For info, call 925-200-2352. Tue., April 6, 12-1 p.m. Free.



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Design Development Walk-Through Presentation by Architectural Integration Group w/ Tom Eliot Fisch. [illegible] materials, finishes, and developed drawings. Community input [illegible]. Wed., April 14, 6:30 p.m. free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Script Wine Bar Grand Opening With complimentary wine and [illegible], [illegible] care products from [illegible], [illegible] massage, and free gifts. Call 415-656-4117 to RSVP. Thu., April 1, 6-9 p.m. Script Wine Bar, 5832 College Ave., Oakland.

Urban Legend Tasting Room Open Saturday Pouring '09 Sauvignon Blanc, '09 Rosato di Barbera, '08 [illegible], '06 Tempranillo and '05 [illegible] blend. Sat., April 3, 1-6 p.m. free. Urban Legend Cellars, 621 4th St., Oakland.

X [illegible] Birthday Grand reopening of new East Bay [illegible] club. Features the Zeros, The Mutants and No Alternative. All ages welcome. Sat., April 17, 8 p.m., $10. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

Networking

17th Annual [illegible] Social [illegible] Conference Women Dinner & Keynote Featuring an awards ceremony and keynote [illegible] by Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps. Fri., April 23, 6-9 p.m. $40-$80. Shattuck Plaza Hotel, 2086 Allston Wy., Oakland.

12th [illegible] Leadership [illegible] With a keynote [illegible] by Sonal Shah, Director of the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation. Thu., April 22, 6-9 p.m., $30 for [illegible], $10 for [illegible]. Haas [illegible], 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7909. Haas.berkeley.edu.

13th Annual Fisher Center Real Estate Appreciation UC Berkeley Fisher Center for Real Estate & Urban Economics with [illegible] Kenneth T. Rosen, who will [illegible]. Mon., April 26, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. $125-$320. St. Francis [illegible], 335 Powell St., San Francisco. 415-914-0353.

[illegible] Rotary Club Lunch meeting for business and community leaders. Guests welcome. Call Al [illegible] at 925-[illegible]-6461 for more info. Wednesdays, noon. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Round Hill Rd., Alamo. 925-[illegible]-6581.

Albany Networking Foundation Fundraiser & Champagne Hour With champagne, wine and chocolate tastings, light appetizers, plus silent and live auction, plus music by Bill [illegible]. Sat., April 24, 7:30-10:30 p.m. $25. [illegible] Community Church, 949 The Alameda, Berkeley. 510-525-3865.

All [illegible] 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970, 1965, 1960 MBA [illegible] Reunion Weekend For alumni of Haas School of Business. Featuring "Cal-Ent" [illegible] specials. Sat., April 24, 6:30 p.m., $60 or $100 per couple. Claremont Resort and Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-843-3000. ClaremontResort.com. BBQ lunch [illegible]. Sun., April 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. $5-$15. Tilden Regional Park, entrances off [illegible] Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

All-Around Oakland Conference: "Managing & Leading in Complex, [illegible]" With keynote [illegible] Matt [illegible], founder and chief executive officer of [illegible] Network Inc. [illegible] visiting academics and business. Sat., April 24, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. $50. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-7909. Haas.berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Society of Home Networking, Inc. Dinner [illegible] Oakland Call [illegible] at 510-315-8834 for more info. Second Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $45-$60. Hs' Lordships Restaurant, 199 Seawall Dr., Berkeley. 510-843-2733. www.hslordships.com/

Association of Professional [illegible] Landscape [illegible] to landscape design professionals and business in the green industry. For info, call [illegible] at 936-0729 or e-mail [illegible]@earthlink.net. Second Tuesday of every month, 4-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $5-$15. [illegible] Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-1153.

B2B Gathering: [illegible] Creek/Lafayette Oakland Membership limited to one person per profession. Third Thursday of every month, 10 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Elk's Lodge [illegible] Creek, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-458-1297.

BDF Networking Group, Oakland [illegible] ship limited to one business per profession. For more info call 925-980-6648, or e-mail [illegible]. First Thursday of every [illegible], 12-1:30 p.m. Third Thursday of every [illegible], 12-1:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Century 21 [illegible] Realty, 4801 A Clayton Rd., Concord.

Bagels in [illegible] Networking group to inspire word-of-mouth [illegible]. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Noah's Bagels Lafayette, 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Bay Area 2001 [illegible] Class Lunch For alumni of Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. Thu., April 1, 12-1 p.m. free. Salon [illegible], 505 Market St., San Francisco.

Bay Area Women: 11th Women [illegible] and Oakland Conference: [illegible] Competition & Networking [illegible] Twenty conference features [illegible] Women panels, workshops led by more than 100 [illegible] at [illegible] Berkeley, business, environmental issues, and awareness. April 22-23, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. $80-$150. [illegible] Center, 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Berkeley Chamber of Commerce Chamber [illegible] free. April 14, 8-9 a.m. $15-$30. Hs' Lordships Restaurant, 199 Seawall Dr., Oakland. 510-843-2733. www.hslordships.com/

[illegible] Main Street [illegible] Association First Saturdays Chamber Development Workshop Business professionals will assist with marketing & business plan development. Meeting held at 4430 International Blvd., Oakland. For info, call 888-818-3618 or visit [illegible]. First Saturday of every [illegible]. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland.

[illegible] At The Chamber [illegible] by [illegible] Insurance Agency Networking and member briefing meeting. Thu., April 15, 7:30-9 a.m. free. Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 475 14th St., Oakland.

Chamber Networking [illegible] Networking for Chamber members who would like to grow their business via [illegible] referrals. Membership limited to one person per profession. For more info call [illegible] at 925-[illegible]. [illegible] Tuesday of every [illegible], 7:30-9 a.m. [illegible] Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. [illegible], 5121 Hopyard Rd., [illegible]. 925-460-5434.

Chamber [illegible] First Wednesday of every [illegible] 7 a.m. Third Wednesday of every [illegible] 7 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. 925-828-1150.

Chamber Leaders' Trip to China The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce [illegible] business and community leaders to participate in the 2010 [illegible] Tour of China, under the auspice of [illegible] International. For info call Lynn Pauline at 925-934-2007. March 31-April 8. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, [illegible] N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek.

[illegible] 2010 [illegible] Membership Week With special guest [illegible], founding member and state president. Wed., March 31, 5:30-8 p.m. [illegible] Building, 300 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-444-2480.

[illegible] Club Meeting Business leaders will [illegible] and [illegible] of the economy. Light refreshments provided. Wed., March 31, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Wed., April 14, 8:30-10:30 a.m. free. Edward Jones Investments, 1485 Treat Blvd., Suite 203A, Walnut Creek. EdwardJones.com

East Bay Annual [illegible] Chamber Talk Featuring [illegible] Women shows how to [illegible] and build relationships. For info, visit OaklandChamber.com. Fri., April 2, 11 a.m., $35-$45. Waterfront Plaza Hotel, 10 Washington St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]

Tuesday Mixer Thu., April 22, 5:30-7 p.m. ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Inside [illegible] Forum RSVP to [illegible]@OaklandChamber.com, or call 510-874-4800 [illegible]. April 16, 8:30-10 a.m. free to Chamber members, $10 for nonmembers. Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 475 14th St., Oakland.

Job/Career Fairs Sponsored by WorkAbility [illegible] Diablo Unified [illegible] District joins Contra Costa employers with [illegible] high school employees. Wed., [illegible] free. College Park High School, 201 Viking Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-682-7670. www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/[illegible]

Joint Chamber [illegible] Wed., April 21, 5:30-8:30 p.m. $125 per team of 5-8, $5 for observers. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

[illegible] Women [illegible] Networking Dinner For info and registration, [illegible]. Thu., April 8, 6:45-9:30 p.m. $30-$45. Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 800-368-2468. [illegible]

Nonprofit Roundtable Commons Berkeley Tue., April 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m. free. Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 475 14th St., Oakland.

Oakland Chamber Ambassador Committee Saturday Lunch provided. Wed., April 14, 12-1 p.m. free. Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 475 14th St., Oakland.

UC Berkeley Women Gala Gala dinner and celebration for alumni of Haas School of Business. Visit [illegible].berkeley.edu to [illegible]. Sat., April 24, 6-10 p.m. $200-$250. Ferry Building, 1 Ferry Building, San Francisco. 415-693-0996.

Annual [illegible] Chamber of Commerce 2010 [illegible] Installation & Women [illegible] Commemoration ceremony for Rusty [illegible], who will be [illegible] as chairman along with 2010-2011 directors. Outgoing Chairman Leslie Barrett will review Chamber accomplishments and recognize volunteers. Call Lynn Pauline at 925-934-2007 to make a reservation. Tue., April 13, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $38. Scott's Restaurant, 1333 N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-934-1300. ScottsSeafood.net

[illegible] Chamber of Commerce [illegible] Civic Affairs Committee Meeting For info, call [illegible] at 925-934-2007. Tue., April 13, 12-1 p.m. free. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1777 Botelho Dr., #103, Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007.

[illegible] Creek Chamber of Commerce New [illegible] Wed., April 28, 4-5 p.m. free. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1777 Botelho Dr., #103, Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007.

Open Call

ACCI Gallery Seeks New Artists The gallery is looking for original, high-quality contemporary fine art and crafts. Please submit 5-15 slides of your work, an accompanying list of the works with title, medium, and retail price; a résumé, bio, or artist statement; and a SASE. Visit ACCIGallery.com/join_us.htm for more info. Daily. ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Call for Artists, Creators, and Galleries Annual event [illegible], the weekends of June 5-6 and June 12-13. Visitors will [illegible] studios throughout Berkeley and Oakland. Each participating artist [illegible]. Through March 31. Pro Arts Gallery, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Call for Laney College Graduates to Join the Laney College Alumni Association Perks include advance notice of Laney games and events, plus networking opportunities. To register call founder [illegible] at 510-379-8300, or e-mail [illegible]@peralta.edu. Daily. free. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-834-5740. 510-464-3210. Laney.peralta.edu.

The Annual [illegible] Chamber of Commerce [illegible] Nominations for Chamber of the year, citizen of the year, business of the year, innovator of the year, and [illegible] person of the year due by April 1. Presented at the art installation luncheon on April 13. Thu., April 1. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1777 Botelho Dr., #103, Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007. ●

It's Easy Being *Green*: Local Businesses *GET ROLLING*

By *Laura McCamy*
volunteer

What do a grocery store, a law firm and a printer have in common? All three are local companies that understand the value bicycling brings to their green businesses.

Kirk Watkins owner of Oakland's **Food Mill** natural foods store, sees cyclists as natural customers for the fresh foods his store provides. "Our business is about the earth and so are bicycles We go hand in hand," adding "I wish everybody was out there riding a bike." The store opened its doors to cyclists even before bike lanes were added to MacArthur Boulevard in front of the store Though there are now bike racks for parking out front, bicycle riders are still welcome to bring their vehicles into the store to have them safely stowed in back Watkins appreciates the community sensibilities of customers who shop by bicycle "It's a bit of a slower pace. It's just nice. They come in with a smile on their face."

Wendel Rosen Black & Dean is an Oakland law firm and a certified green business According to Bill Acevedo, the partner in charge of the firm's green business group helping employees who want to commute to work by bicycle was a no brainer "The first benefit of course, is employee morale If employees who want to use alternative forms of transportation like biking if they can do it, they are happy" The firm nurtures its bicycling culture for other reasons as well "As a law firm it's a differentiator – it tells who we are as a firm" Employees who share a love of cycling build camaraderie which improves "the relationships that are vital to any business organization"

One third of the 15 members of the **Inkworks Press** collective commute to work by bicycle Inkworks offers indoor bicycle parking for its workers. Employees ride in from as far away as San Francisco to the shop on 7th Street in West Berkeley, where they print "everything from business cards to posters to books" The collective uses bicycle delivery service Pedal Express for its local deliveries And they see the value of cycling as a way to get to and from work "The time of day when I ride is beautiful" says pre press operator Jonathan Winston "I arrive at work much happier"

Bill Acevedo agrees "In the summer, there's nothing better than riding to work and watching the sun rise."

EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION
www.ebbc.org

Sustainable Business Alliance and
Alameda County Green Business Program

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Welcome by Ari Derfel Co Founder/Co Owner of Back to Earth Organic Catering and Gather restaurant

Other Participating chefs & caterers:
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Anzmendi Bakery
Blue Heron Catering Inc & Royal Raspberry
Checkers Catering
Chef K
Digs Bistro
Grace Street Catering
Henry's
Hugh Groman Catering & Greenleaf Platters
La Bonne Cuisine
Picante
Razan's
The Bread Workshop

Thursday, April 29th, 2010
5:30pm – 7:30pm

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- **Sample great cuisine by green local chefs**
- **Celebrate Environmental Values at Work with other new Green Businesses**
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5 30 6 30
meet the chefs food & networking green building tour

6 30 7.30
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God, We Love Yummy Pinots

Especially from California's Central Coast.

There are few things better in life than a light and flavorful pinot, particularly if it's relatively inexpensive and sustainably grown. Call it "a four-fer." You get to enjoy one hell of a good wine, support a California independent business, and minimize your carbon footprint all at the same time — without going broke doing it.

Look no further than the **Carmel Road 2007 Pinot Noir $17.99** (at Berkeley Bowl). It boasts with an aroma of melons, apples, blackberries, and cherries. And it comes with a sweet and lightly acidic, yet smooth taste that only manages to become sweeter and smoother as it breathes. Plus, like many great pinots, it comes from the California Central Coast, in particular, the cool, moist Salinas Valley that many had thought would be too cold for good pinots but has turned out to be the wine's true home away from home.

Founded in 1997, Carmel Road is all about its hand-made wines and the terroir of the Monterey area. For its pinots, the award-winning winery employs open-tank fermentation and ages the wine in French oak barrels. The 2007 pinot has won accolades from the around the country: WineReviewOnline.com awarded it 88 points, and it won a gold medal at the 2010 *San Francisco Chronicle* Wine Competition.

Our wine-tasting team simply loved this pinot, especially for the price. It exquisitely complemented our meal of grilled vegetables and chicken, and it would do well with grilled fish, steak, or lamb. We gave it an eight on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the highest. And for its price, we would give it a nearly perfect nine.

Our second selection was a **Kali Hart 2007 Pinot Noir $17.99** (also at Berkeley Bowl). Although not as flavorful as the Carmel Road, it's still a good, solid wine with a nose full of blueberries and cherries and a hint of cinnamon. It's also more tannicky than the Carmel Road with a dry, oaky aftertaste. It mellowed as it breathed, but lost none of its nose.

Kali Hart is made by Talbott vineyard of Monterey County, and named after Robb Talbott's daughter. Robb Talbott not only runs the family business, the Robert Talbott Tie Company, but he also is the hands-on proprietor of the winery he began in 1982.

This fresh, bright pinot is from the Santa Lucia Highlands, and it's hand-sorted and pressed before spending several months in French oak barrels, too. We liked it, but it didn't spoil us like the Carmel Road. There are other better pinots out there at this price. We gave it a six.

— Robert Gammon

For retail availability, visit EastBayExpress.com

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/pc/yummypinots

Gourmet Ristorante 2155 Salvio St., Concord. 925-528-9050. (Italian) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] 10200 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-525-8358. (Mexican) $

El Tuetano 3448 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante. 510-222-0412. (Latino/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] 3768 Pinole St., Richmond. 510-524-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 3288A Pierce St., Richmond. 510-527-3600. (Dessert/Seafood) $-$$

The Little Fish 2[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Crockett. 510-787-3323. (American/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] 50 Washington Ave., Richmond. 510-233-0576. (American) $$$

Oakland [illegible] San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante. 510-223-6615. (Central American) $

[illegible] 10544-10548 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-[illegible] (Japanese Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] 3800 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Emeryville. 510-724-2392. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-236-3326. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] 1500 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole. 510-223-5620. (Italian) $$

[illegible] 1500 Sycamore Ave., Unit E, Hercules. 510-245-1900. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

El Tapatio 817 23rd St., Richmond. 510-215-8999 (restaurant). (Mexican) $

Taqueria La [illegible] 12348 San Pablo Ave., Richmond. 510-235-2388. (Central American/Mexican/S[illegible]) $

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe [illegible] 46891 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-8898. (Chinese) $-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 3954 Mowry Ave., Fremont. 510-796-3438. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 33330 Dyer/Alvarado Rd., Union City. 510-471-0352. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant 39[illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont. 510-659-9600. (Burmese/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

[illegible] 43781 Boscell Rd., Fremont. 510-440-1560. (Bulgarian/Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 1550 Decoto Rd., Union City. (877) 324-[illegible] (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 45001 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 510-657-3432. (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Grill 39158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont. 510-797-2700. (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] Plaza 40900 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 510-683-8500. (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

New [illegible] 743 Decoto Rd., Union City. 510-475-9835. (Chinese) $

[illegible] 5888 New Park Mall Rd., Newark. 510-794-8400. (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 30293 Dyer St., Union City. 510-494-5727. (Indian/Pakistani) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] 26102 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-770-7355. (Italian) $-$$

[illegible] 1002 B St., Hayward. 510-886-5825. (American/Breakfast) $

[illegible] 1289 Washington Ave., San Leandro. 510-895-8008. (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 29852 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-581-4000. (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Restaurant and Pizza 2897 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley. 510-886-6602. (Greek) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27328 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. 510-780-0880. (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

Sam's Super Burger 18[illegible] Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo. 510-278-6339. (American/Diner) $

The [illegible] 21853 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-538-0500. (Persian) $$

[illegible] 804 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-633-9[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

Thai [illegible] 1376 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-351-2340. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] Burgers 211 B Kelly St., Hayward. 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

[illegible] 2[illegible] Farnsworth St., San Leandro. 510-357-6600. (Vietnamese) $$

Yet [illegible] 27330 Foothill Blvd., Hayward. 510-888-9222. (Chinese/Korean) $

LAMORINDA

[illegible] Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-7920. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe [illegible] 20 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-254-2981. (American/South Asian) $$-$$$

[illegible]-Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-963-3498. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

El Jarro Mexican Cafe 3583 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-283-6639. (Mexican) $-$$

La Fiesta Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette. 925-284-5080. (Italian) $$-$$$

Orinda [illegible] Restaurant 1 Orinda Way, Orinda. 925-253-9852. (Chinese) $

Lily's [illegible] 3185 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-7588. (Chinese) $$-$$

[illegible] Lafayette 3558 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-8422. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-299-0500. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

[illegible] 3585 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-299-8700. (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Cafe 1012 School St., Moraga. 925-376-5827. (American) $-$$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

[illegible] [illegible] 4th St., Oakland. 510-256-3752. (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 804 Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible] (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

[illegible] 338 12th St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-0536. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 55 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-444-1295. (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Mexican/Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] of India 248 Clay St., Oakland. 510-834-7684. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland. 510-839-7685. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St., Oakland. 510-444-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1915 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-834-9516. (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Chop Bar 247 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-834-2467. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Delis) $$

[illegible] Cafe 718 Washington St., Oakland. 510-465-5400. (Barbecue/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant 701 Webster St., Oakland. 510-832-7663. (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

[illegible] of California 444 [illegible], Oakland. 510-839-4448. (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] 412 14th St., Oakland. 510-452-1994. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

[illegible] 1405 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-4825. (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Restaurant & Wine Bar 247 Fourth St., Oakland. 510-834-9200. (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 1155 3rd St., Oakland. 510-465-1350. (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Our Place Bar & Grill [illegible] Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-268-1730. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 724 Webster St., Oakland. 510-835-832[illegible] (Vietnamese) $

Restaurant [illegible] 165 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-286-8866. (Chinese) $$$$

[illegible] 800 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-444-8978. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San [illegible] Company [illegible] Clay St., Oakland. 510-763-7[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 328 10th St., Oakland. 510-839-2200. (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 300 Broadway, Oakland. 510-[illegible]-8100. (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 3408 13th St., Oakland. 510-836-6385. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 495 14th St., Suite 17, Oakland. 510-625-[illegible] (Barbecue/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Restaurant 50 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4888. (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200. (Japanese/Sushi/Bars/Music Venues) $$$

OAKLAND-EAST

[illegible] 1500 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-261-8800. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 3731 [illegible] Blvd., Oakland. 510-534-4795. (Mexican) $

[illegible] 2132 13th Ave., Oakland. 510-238-8819. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Los [illegible] 1449 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-534-3079. (Central American/Salvadoran) $

La [illegible] 3625 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-8586. (Mexican) $

[illegible] Cafe 3718 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-2200. (American/Diner) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland. 510-465-7188. (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

[illegible] de Mayo 3340 #2 E. 12th St., Oakland. 510-533-0999. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

El Ojo de Agua 3130 E. 12th St., Oakland. (Mexican) $

Old [illegible] Village 6317 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-0771. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 3912 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-8[illegible] (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

[illegible] Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland. no phone. (Mexican) $

Taqueria Campos 3659 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-261-4098. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 3809 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-536-8486. (American/Mexican) $

Taqueria San José 3433 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-8748. (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 4343 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-261-8125. (Mexican) $

La Torta Loca 3418 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-532-7105. (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-601-0368. (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bars) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Table Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland. (408) 432-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-7180

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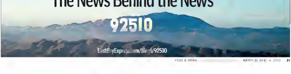
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92510
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(American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf [illegible] Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 4128 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-1034 (French) $$

[illegible] 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-1860 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 3858 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3881 (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3340 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-836-0576 (California Upscale) $$-$$$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Fish 3334 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1912 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535 (Kosher/Holy/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

[illegible] 3421 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-883-2690 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

[illegible] Sushi 3268 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Tropix 3814 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-7444 (Caribbean) $$

Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] 3211 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-658-3497 (Italian/Pizza) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 5400 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-4400 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$

[illegible] Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak Roads, Berkeley, (510) 562-PARK (Parks & Playing Fields/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Deli/Desserts/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8383 (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

Oliveto 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-[illegible] (French/Pizza) $-$$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889 (Southeast Asian/Thai, Burmese) $$

Top Dog 5150 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 412-6409 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Teahouse/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Cafe 4217 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0221 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$

Burma Superstar 4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-7800 (Southeast Asian) $$

Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-4006 (Korean) $

[illegible] 2118 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-883-1027 (Korean) $$

[illegible] 3102 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-7800 (Korean) $$

[illegible] Loca 4499 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-2728 (Mexican) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

[illegible] 4618 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2150 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

[illegible] 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-5630 (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] Chicken [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5538 (Korean) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

[illegible] 4318 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3360 (Korean) $-$$

[illegible] 4801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-9980 (Korean) $-$$

Simone Pie & Poppy's Authentic Southern Cuisine 5319 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-541-6743 (Barbecue/Soul Food) $-$$

Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8691 (African/Vegetarian/Spanish) $$$

[illegible] Zu Zang 4390 Telegraph Ave., Suite B, Oakland, 510-652-3836 (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

Blue Agave Club 625 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-417-1224 (Mexican) $$$

Bridges 44 Church St., Danville, 925-820-7200 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 2130 First St., Livermore, 925-443-4456 (Mexican) $

[illegible] and Dominique's [illegible] 210 Rose Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-0100 (French) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Custom Meats 165 Town & Country Dr. Suite C, Danville, 925-552-6328 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Custom Meats 4825 Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton, 925-417-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 1 Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-838-0600 (Barbecue/Deli) $

McNamara's Steak & Chop House 7800 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, 925-833-0995 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant 18 Boardwalk, San Ramon, 925-831-9381 (California Cuisine) $$$

The [illegible] 800 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, 925-299-6855 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] BBQ and Seafood 2301 First St., Livermore, 925-251-9858 (Barbecue/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 395 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, 925-449-7000 (Croatian) $$-$$$

Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 115 Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-855-9000 (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 3496 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, 925-984-3818 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

WALNUT CREEK

Authentic Russian Deli & Restaurant 1415 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-210-0819 (Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7660 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 1351 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-281-1688 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] Hamburger 1451 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4868 (Diner) $

[illegible] 1528 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4555 (California Cuisine/Italian/Nuevo Latino) $$

[illegible] 1831 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-952-9363 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 1228 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-939-3428 (Deli/Italian) $

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7780 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-947-6105 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-937-8788 (Chinese) $-$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Walnut Creek Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-944-3474 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible] Mixologist [illegible] makes cocktails on the roof using [illegible] syrups, liqueurs, and other specialty spirits. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 1. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-749-0332. ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

[illegible] Chocolate Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolate-making in progress, followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free. Charles Chocolates Factory Store [illegible], 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-652-4412. CharlesChocolates.com.

A Conversation with Harold McGee Author of *On Food and Cooking* discusses his work. Sponsored by *Gastronomica, The Journal of Food and Culture*. Thu., April 1, 6-8:30 p.m., $20. [illegible], 2050 [illegible] Way, Berkeley.

Easter Buffet With Tuscan-style leg of lamb, jumbo prawns, with [illegible] in [illegible] sauce, Benedict eggs, potato-vegetable hash with chive hollandaise, dim sum with dipping sauce, fruit tarts, bread pudding, and more. Sun., April 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $75 per adult, $[illegible] per child. Claremont Resort and Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-843-3000. ClaremontResort.com.

[illegible] Oakland The Unity Council presents local produce and live music performances. First Thursday of every month, 5-8 p.m., free. Fruitvale Village, 3411 E. 12th St. at Fruitvale BART, Oakland. 510-535-6900. UnityCouncil.org.

Pleasant Hill Senior Center Pancake Breakfast & Spring Boutique Sat., April 3, 8-11 a.m., $2.50-$3.50. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Ln., Pleasant Hill. 925-798-8788.

Spaghetti [illegible] Special on dishes of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, and a side salad. Plus a produce showcase. Starting April 1. Sundays. Continues through Dec. 31. $[illegible]. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Taste for [illegible] [illegible] urban festival features live music, [illegible], wine, [illegible], and more than twenty-five vendors selling their wares. Sat., April 3, 5-8 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland. 510-827-3670. JackLondonSquare.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible] Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m., free. [illegible] St. at Haight Ave., [illegible].

[illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally grown seasonal fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible], [illegible] Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-[illegible].

[illegible] Certified Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh [illegible], and specialty food items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Railroad St. at Prospect St., Danville.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-4104. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5050. [illegible].

[illegible] Farmers' Market With producers selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in season. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. [illegible] St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard [illegible] the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally grown California [illegible] at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente MacArthur Farmers' Market With locally grown seasonal fruits and vegetables. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical [illegible], 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland [illegible] Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market With fresh fruits, nuts, vegetables, and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, [illegible] Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce in the cafeteria garden. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a variety of fresh organic and organic vegetables, free [illegible], fresh wild fish, fruits, vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, cheese, fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, [illegible] p.m., free. [illegible] at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Supported and maintained by [illegible], it supports that strives to [illegible] nutritional awareness, access to [illegible] foods and the connections between people and our planet. The market includes certified organic produce [illegible] J&P Organic Farm based out of [illegible], CA and a [illegible] called the Purple Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to [illegible], please [illegible] or call 510-482-[illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel [illegible] Farmers' Market, 4513 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market [illegible] specialty foods, all-organic specialty [illegible] items for sale plus [illegible] events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market seasonal produce grown [illegible], fresh baked bread, [illegible], flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland. 510-827-3670. JackLondonSquare.com.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With local [illegible], free vendors selling fresh California-grown produce. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Fernandez Ave. at Pear St., Pinole.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With [illegible] fruit and vegetables, plus Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosting adoptions. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton [illegible] Main St. [illegible] Angela St., Pleasanton.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus [illegible] and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-548-3333.

[illegible] Farmers' Market California [illegible] farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, Italian goods, locally caught fish, [illegible] and more. Info: 510-745-1450. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus [illegible] and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, plus a [illegible] court. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Old Alvarado Park, Smith & Watkins St., Union City.

PICK

Chocolate Sunday

Held on Sunday, Apr. 4, as it is on the first Sunday of every month, **Chocolate Sunday at St. John's Presbyterian Church** (2727 College Ave., Berkeley) is a marketplace featuring fair-trade chocolate and other packaged foods such as tea, coffee, and dried fruit from small-scale farmers and co-ops around the world, sold under the Equal Exchange brand. Proceeds from those sales, presented by the church's Mission and Justice Committee, revert to the farmers. Noon, free. StJohnsBerkeley.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

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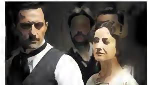
INNA LABONZA

Hysterical Italian political pathos (*Vincere*) vs. hearty Italian-American sitcom laughs (*City Island*)

By Kelly Vance



Filippo Timi as Benito Mussolini and Giovanna Mezzogiorno as the Italian dictator's one-time lover Ida in *Vincere*.

If we strip away the historical resonance and director Marco Bellocchio's visual flourishes, the 2009 Italian film *Vincere* becomes a fairly routine — although agreeably tawdry — marital melodrama.

An idealistic, unpresumable young woman named Ida (Giovanna Mezzogiorno) meets a charismatic political orator named Benito (Filippo Timi) at a rally. They fall in love and live together, and she bears his son. But when they meet again after a wartime period of separation, Ida is shocked to learn that Benito already had a wife and family before they had their romantic fling. Now all of a sudden, Benito maintains he doesn't know Ida, backed up by the loud protestations of his wife, Rachele (Michaela Cescon).

To make matters worse, Benito, who has attained power in the government, manages to have Ida committed to a mental institution in order to hush her embarrassing paternity claims. The more she demands to be heard, the crazier she is in the eyes of her keepers. Meanwhile, Ida and Benito's son, Benito Albino, aka Benitino (played by Fabrizio Costella), is legally adopted by one of his father's deputies. This effectively shuts him up, at least until he gets old enough to start asking questions. All the while, the seduced and abandoned Ida still carries a torch for Benito and refuses to give up on the idea of their undying love for each other. It haunts her for the rest of her sad life. And she never sees her son again.

But before we get out our handkerchiefs, take note of the fact that the "Benito" we're talking about is Benito Mussolini (1883-1945), Fascist dictator of Italy and WWII co-conspirator of Hitler and the Nazi Germans. And the fact that veteran writer-director Bellocchio (*The Wedding Director*, *Fists in the Pocket*) is just as fascinated with taking the emotional temperature of Italy in the Mussolini years as he is with the travails of Ida Dalser at the hands of her beloved *Il Duce*.

It would be possible to know almost nothing about Mussolini or Italian fascism and still be hypnotized by Bellocchio's extravagant visuals, which turn Italy in the early decades of the 20th century into a kaleidoscopic carnival of violently clashing extremes. The director (he wrote the screenplay with Daniela Ceselli) sets up the opportunistic Mussolini as a sort of rock star of anti-pope speechifying, first as a Socialist flamboyantly challenging the deity to strike him dead, and later as a book-burning black-shirted Fascist in love with death-head symbolism. Ida melts under his penetrating gaze, as does the rest of the helter-skelter country. Fistfights break out at movie theaters. Mussolini champions the Futurist art movement. Newsreels and bold, modernist-style headlines fill the air as events march forward in rhythmic montage.

Heartbroken Ida refuses to join the parade, and suffers for it. But there's a limit to how much we're willing to suffer along with her. Bellocchio and his leading lady paint Ida in bold, expressionistic strokes. No matter how many times we've seen characters like her wrongfully condemned to the horrors of primitive mental therapy, it's a shock to see her imprisoned by nuns and literally climbing the walls, her life destroyed by her former lover. As she scatters her pathetic little hand-scrawled messages in front of unseeing schoolboys, Bellocchio rests the entire film on Ida's trembling shoulders — it's probably too much weight for actor Mezzogiorno to bear. Ida refuses to quit pressing her claim, even after a kindly psychiatrist takes her aside and counsels her to play it cool. "Do you think Fascism will last forever?" Her turmoil aptly peaks during a hospital screening of Charlie Chaplin's *The Kid* — exactly the wrong movie to show a woman whose son has been torn away from her. Any resemblance to *The Snake Pit* or *Frances* is unfortunate but unavoidable.

Vincere
Directed by Marco Bellocchio. With Giovanna Mezzogiorno and Filippo Timi. Opens Friday.

City Island
Written and directed by Raymond De Felitta. With Andy Garcia, Julianna Margulies, and Steven Strait. Opens Friday.

Vincere then presents a problem. On one hand, it's a strident, bitter, dark-toned portrait of the cruel excesses of Italian Fascism as reflected on those closest to Mussolini, told in broad, arguably operatic, almost hallucinatory terms with music and cinematography — by Carlo Crivelli and Daniele Cipri — to match. On the other, it's the story of a wronged woman's torments, an elevated weepy with a political filter. Go for the bitter history lesson, but don't forget to bring a Kleenex.

How different are 21st-century Italian Americans from 1930s Italians? Fast-forward about seventy years and travel across the Atlantic to the charming community of *City Island*, New York, for a cute look-see into another marital brouhaha.

Instead of a ruthless black-shirt, the patriarch of the Rizzo clan is Vince (Andy Garcia), a mildly discombobulated correctional officer ("not a prison guard!") who lives with his office worker wife Joyce (Julianna Margulies), daughter Vivian (Dominik García-Lorido, Andy's real-life daughter), and son Vince Jr. (Ezra Miller) in the titular locale, a former fishing village just off the Bronx, where Long Island Sound becomes Eastchester Bay. They interact noisily and mostly cheat on themselves instead of on each other.

Writer-director Raymond De Felitta's sweet little comedy is all about putting up appearances as opposed to following your muse. Vince secretly yearns to be a tough-guy movie actor. Joyce is bored with Vince and thus is immediately intrigued with Tony (Steven Strait), the handsome young freed prisoner Vince unaccountably brings home with him one day. Vivian secretly pole-dances at a local strip club — her parents think she's in college. Vince Jr. secretly trolls the Web for fat women and asks a chubby girl for a date. Both Vince Sr. and Joyce sneak cigarettes — they've sworn to each other to quit smoking. And so on. Light chuckles all around.

De Felitta compensates for the sitcom familiarity of all this with graceful comic touches, like what happens when Vince makes up an excuse and goes into Manhattan for acting classes — Alan Arkin plays his teacher and Emily Mortimer is a sympathetic classmate. Garcia, too often a brooding presence in his films, is a welcome sight as amiable working stiff Vince, and Margulies gets her sexy coyote on with the mysterious Tony — up to a point. The others all get what they need, which is the same as what they want. *City Island* has a warm, realistic, lived-in feel to it, helped along by its specificity. It's not just Anytown, USA, it's City Island, where the clam diggers and the mussel suckers meet the family circus. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/vincere

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn when a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Grenwell (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

Breath Made Visible Documentary about American modern dance pioneer Anna Halprin. Directed by Ruedi Gerber, featuring Anna and Lawrence Halprin. RCI.

City Island "Family" doesn't always have to mean [illegible]. Uncomplicated, pleasing [illegible] and fun with a non-threatening Italian-American theater and [illegible] from the Bronx, led by Andy Garcia as a prison guard who yearns to be an actor. Garcia and [illegible] Margulies are [illegible] Vince and Joyce [illegible], as are Emily Mortimer and Alan Arkin [illegible] Vince's [illegible] from [illegible] Manhattan. Writer-director Raymond De Felitta [illegible] Vince brings home, etc. Filmmaker De Felitta (*The* [illegible] makes [illegible] comedy look easy. It isn't. (100 min.)

Clash of the Titans Update of the 1981 classic starring Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes. Directed by Louis Leterrier. [illegible]

The Secret of Kells [illegible] by the [illegible] team of [illegible] which explains the origin of the legendary [illegible], one of history's most famous illuminated religious manuscripts. Inside the medieval abbey of [illegible], a [illegible] Brendan is inspired by a visiting brother [illegible] Aidan [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] It all happens in a rush of color and Celtic design, with fine voice characterizations by Brendan Gleeson (the [illegible]), [illegible] Mooney (Aisling, a forest fairy), and young Brendan (Evan McGuire). The French-Belgian-Irish production was made in Kilkenny and it's a feast for the eyes and the heart. (75 min.) PM.

Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too? [illegible] Janet Jackson [illegible]

Vincere [illegible] Mussolini [illegible] Ida Dalser [illegible] Giovanna Mezzogiorno [illegible] Filippo Timi [illegible]

Showtimes Online
showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

The guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each listing: AL = Albany, ATC = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, [illegible] = Brenden Concord, BH = Blackhawk, BP = Brenden Pittsburg, BS = Bay Street, CA = California, CAPH = CineArts Pleasant Hill, [illegible] = Contra Costa Cinemas, [illegible] = Century Pleasant Hill, [illegible] = Century Hilltop, CHY = Century Hayward, [illegible] = Crow Canyon, [illegible] = Century Walnut Creek, [illegible] = Grand Lake, [illegible] = Piedmont, [illegible] = Regal Hacienda, [illegible] = UA Berkeley, [illegible]

M*T

[illegible] with [illegible] visuals and [illegible] tonalities in [illegible] and for the turn-and-snake-pit [illegible] and [illegible] stuff [illegible] (121 min.) JA

ONGOING

Ajami In the rough-and-tumble [illegible] neighborhood of Jaffa, Israel, an entertaining swirl of characters [illegible] up violently even though their [illegible] pain. The writing-editing-directing team of Scandar Copti (he plays an ill-fated [illegible]) and Yaron Shani show that contemporary [illegible] has space for everyone — Jews, Arab Israelis, Arab Christians, etc. — so long as the common denominators are [illegible] in shape. It's as if the Palestinian-Israeli conflict suddenly [illegible] to drug gang warfare. [illegible] Arab [illegible] off [illegible] for a [illegible] of a vendetta, and [illegible] Copti as [illegible] with [illegible] of [illegible] a Jewish girl despite the objections of her parents (120 min.) (KY,[illegible])

Alice in Wonderland Altogether the familiar for its own good. The ideal Alice should be and [illegible] unsettling, even threatening. [illegible] of the [illegible] in the Tim Burton/Disney version, even though it could be argued that Burton — working from an adaptation by Linda Woolverton — was [illegible] by the commercial "too-much-ness" of the project. [illegible], Australian actress Mia Wasikowska as [illegible] Alice, Johnny Depp as the [illegible] Mad Hatter, the voice of Alan Rickman as [illegible] hookah-smoking caterpillar, and Anne Hathaway as the [illegible] White Queen. The tea party is appropriately [illegible] and [illegible]. Danny Elfman's [illegible] score, and the [illegible] with a [illegible] Alice against the Jabberwocky. [illegible] whether you see it in 3-D or 2-D, as long as the "premium ticket" fee at the theater. Also with [illegible] Carter as the Red Queen, and the voices of Stephen Fry (Cheshire Cat), [illegible] Christopher Lee (Jabberwocky) and Jim Carter (Executioner) (108 min.) ([illegible])

An Education A precocious middle-class London high-school student named Jenny (in a magnetic performance by Carey Mulligan) falls head over heels for an urbane, [illegible] older man named David (Peter Sarsgaard), with a veneer of [illegible] and [illegible] of the opera, a trip to Paris, etc. It's 1961. But there's something a bit [illegible] about David, and he [illegible]. Danish [illegible] director Lone Scherfig (she did *Italian for Beginners*) lends this cautionary tale with a [illegible] visual style and the [illegible] by Mulligan and Sarsgaard. Alfred Molina as Jenny's [illegible], Emma Thompson and [illegible] ... [illegible] role as the [illegible]. The smart screenplay was adapted by [illegible] novelist Nick Hornby from a memoir by journalist Lynn Barber (95 min.) (KY,[illegible])

Avatar Five years in the making, three hours in the unfolding, writer-director James Cameron's (*The Terminator*, *The Abyss*, *Titanic*) [illegible] with his story of [illegible] on the [illegible] planet of Pandora [illegible] ... [illegible] The CGI visuals are certainly [illegible] — Day-Glo [illegible], flying [illegible], and such — but the [illegible] ... as a shape-shifting Avatar [illegible] — but he gets lost in the shuffle. The US military/industrial [illegible] guys (Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi) are standard issue, as are the Na'Vi [illegible], including Jake's [illegible] girlfriend (voice of Zoe Saldana). Even the King of the World [illegible] (162 min.) ([illegible])

The Blind Side Based on the [illegible] book by [illegible] Lewis, this [illegible] tells the story of [illegible], a gigantic [illegible] teenager [illegible] who [illegible] Christian academy and [illegible] adopted by a wealthy [illegible] family [illegible] ... Catholic [illegible] ... Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock in a fine performance) ... [illegible] and they may well be right. [illegible] the power of giving, [illegible] John and Hancock (*The Rookie*) [illegible] with Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates [illegible] (126 min.) (UJ,[illegible])

The Bounty Hunter Romantic comedy starring Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler. Directed by Andy Tennant (ATC, BS, [illegible])

Brooklyn's Finest If there were any more cops on the edge in this [illegible] cop drama, [illegible] ... Ethan Hawke is a hard-charging narc who's [illegible] to move his [illegible] and pregnant wife (Lili Taylor) out of their [illegible] bungalow; Richard Gere is an [illegible] patrolman [illegible] in exactly seven days [illegible] retirement; and Don Cheadle is an [illegible] agent [illegible] with a drug lord (Wesley Snipes) [illegible] is beginning to outweigh his loyalty to the badge. Eventually they all [illegible] ... Director Antoine Fuqua has come a long way down since *Training Day* (140 min.) ([illegible])

Chasing Pee Wee [illegible] ...

Chloe Director Atom Egoyan, veteran [illegible] of angst and [illegible] in the director [illegible], is adapted by Erin Cressida Wilson from Anne Fontaine's 2003 French film [illegible] ... a cheating husband (Liam Neeson), [illegible] with a [illegible] wife (Julianne Moore), [illegible] Amanda Seyfried [illegible] ... Also with Max Thieriot ... (96 min.) ([illegible])

Cop Out Nothing [illegible] Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan [illegible] New York [illegible] ... Director Kevin Smith [illegible] ... [illegible] Kevin Pollak and Seann William Scott (UJ,[illegible])

The Crazies [illegible] producer George Romero [illegible] directed under the direction of Breck Eisner [illegible] and a screenplay adaptation by Scott Kosar and Ray Wright. [illegible] small Iowa town after a government [illegible] in the local water supply, and it's up to the sheriff (Timothy Olyphant), his [illegible] wife [illegible] and a deputy (Joe Anderson) to figure [illegible] ... [illegible] (101 min.) ([illegible])

Crazy Heart Jeff Bridges gives a signature career performance as Bad Blake, a graying, boozy country music singer-songwriter [illegible] and the [illegible] of Southwestern [illegible] ...

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The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo [illegible]

Clash of the Titans.

[illegible]

The Good Guy [illegible]

Green Zone [illegible]

Greenberg [illegible]

[illegible]

Hot Tub Time Machine [illegible]

How to Train Your Dragon [illegible]

[illegible]

The Last Song [illegible]

The Last Station [illegible]

The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers [illegible]

[illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt [illegible]

The Neverending Story [illegible] Wolfgang Petersen.

Our Family Wedding [illegible]

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief [illegible]

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[illegible] Uma Thurman [illegible] Medusa. It's also a [illegible] to see Steve Coogan in [illegible]. Craig Titley adapted the screenplay from Rick Riordan's young adult novel. (118 min.) [illegible]

Pirate Radio For people who [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Kenneth Branagh as the sinister government [illegible] and Emma Thompson as somebody's mad mum.

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

It's a [illegible] [illegible]

A Prophet (Un prophète) [illegible] Malik, [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married Too

[illegible]

The Ghost Writer [illegible]

Shutter Island Having Martin Scorsese [illegible] Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo [illegible] Max Von Sydow [illegible] Patricia Clarkson [illegible] Emily Mortimer [illegible] Ben Kingsley [illegible] [illegible]

Solomon [illegible]

The Last [illegible] [illegible]

To [illegible] [illegible]

Up in the Air George Clooney [illegible] Ryan Bingham [illegible] Anna Kendrick [illegible] Vera Farmiga [illegible]

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

La [illegible] [illegible] (PFA, 7:00)

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

[illegible] [illegible] Joseph Losey [illegible] (PFA, 7:00)

[illegible] [illegible] (PFA, [illegible])

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

The [illegible] [illegible] (PFA, [illegible])

[illegible] [illegible] (PFA, [illegible])

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

The Red Shoes [illegible] A Tribute to Jack Cardiff (PFA, [illegible])

[illegible] [illegible] Losey [illegible] (PFA, [illegible])

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

[illegible] [illegible] (PFA, 7:30)

La [illegible] [illegible]

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

[illegible] [illegible] (PFA, 7:00)

LANDMARK THEATRES

[illegible]

ALBANY [illegible]

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO [illegible]

CALIFORNIA [illegible]

THE GHOST WRITER [illegible]

SHUTTER ISLAND (R)

PIEDMONT [illegible]

JURASSIC PARK [illegible]

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO [illegible]

GREENBERG (R)

THE GHOST WRITER [illegible]

SHATTUCK [illegible]

A [illegible] (R)

[illegible]

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA: [illegible]

[illegible]

GREENBERG (R)

[illegible]

TYLER PERRY'S WHY DID I GET MARRIED TOO? [illegible]

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BREATH MADE VISIBLE

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AJAMI

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CHLOE

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THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

[illegible]

FANTASTIC MR. FOX

[illegible]

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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SAT 12:00 Midnight

CLASH OF THE TITANS 3D (PG13)
DAILY 1:00 4:00, 7:00 [illegible]

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
3D in 35mm 2D (Not 3D) (PG)
DAILY 12:15 2:35 5:00 [illegible] 9:45

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 3D (PG)
DAILY 12:00, 2:15 4:30 7:15, 9:15

HOT TUB TIME MACHINE (R)
DAILY 12:30 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

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NEXT PHASE OF VIDYA

Prasant Radhakrishan takes his South Indian-jazz blend to a new level of intricacy

By Rachel Swan

Prasant Radhakrishan

At age thirteen, saxophonist Prasant Radhakrishan entered a kind of journeyman apprenticeship that doesn't really exist these days. It didn't really exist back in 1996 either — but the stars just happened to align for Radhakrishan and he got "discovered" the old fashioned way. He was a second-generation kid living in Phoenix, where he played in the middle-school band. A family friend invited him over to her house to meet Kadri Gopalnath, a famous practitioner of South Indian carnatic music who happened to be touring in Phoenix. They clicked, and Gopalnath took him on as a disciple, housed him in Mangalore, India for four summers, and subjected him to a rigorous daily routine. Within four years, he had developed a style of music with no historical antecedent.

"I had zero interest in Indian classical music," said the 27-year-old saxophonist. "I wasn't against it, I just wasn't interested." Radhakrishan came from a family of music aficionados, but none chose music as a profession. Even his teacher had no concrete aims. When the two first met, Gopalnath taught Radhakrishan a few Indian scales and listened patiently while the young sax player tooted through his school band material. "He didn't train me from day one to be his successor," said Radhakrishan. "In his mind I'm gonna become a doctor or engineer."

Today, Radhakrishan is best known as the leader of VidyA, a jazz trio featuring David Ewell on bass and Sameer Gupta on drums. He conceptualized the group about ten years ago as a means to present a vast arsenal of original compositions. Radhakrishan's music straddles a thin line between two traditions — jazz and carnatic music — but tries to conserve the integrity of both. That's a tall order, he said. "One of the biggest challenges is to not make either of the kinds of music sound wrong, or bad, or kind of cheesy — you see what I'm saying?"

Radhakrishan is anything but typical. He performs in a long tunic called a jubba, which is traditional apparel for South Indian men. Local artwork adorns the walls of his apartment, and the Mead notebooks on his desk are filled with lyrics written in Sanskrit. When he's playing an Indian classical concert, Radhakrishan sits on the stage with his legs crossed. His bow is a study in self-composure. He grew up listening to all the giants — Trane, Bird, Wayne Shorter — and he has the ingrained groove of someone who worked hard, studied a lot, and ultimately found his own voice. But he's working in a form that's entirely outside the jazz idiom. He's trying to achieve the forward motion of jazz without the harmonic changes.

"I think they're playing in *nine*," said one audience member at the Red Poppy Art House, counting beats on his fingertips. Correct, Radhakrishan said later. The song is called "DSH," and it requires Ewell to play four- and five-beat bass lines over and over again while Radhakrishan zigs and zags over top.

VidyA's music is hard in the sense that it requires the three musicians to know two forms of music very well, and meld them together without stepping on either one. South Indian music is similar to jazz in that it starts off with a through-composed part called a *kriti*, then delves into long improvised sections using the main line of the song as a leaping-off point. But Indian music is structured around *ragas* (elaborate melodic modes) rather than chord changes, so it often requires the players to stay in one key for an entire song. For Radhakrishan it's critical to hew to that form. "If you're playing a bunch of chord changes, and just playing some Indian scales, they're not Indian ragas," he explained. "They're just scales and any jazz musician can do that."

Indeed, a lot of modern jazz musicians add Indian elements to their music — usually as a stylistic flourish or intellectual curiosity. Radhakrishan is much more purposeful and directed. His music has jazz grooves, asymmetrical rhythms, and in-the-moment improvisations. It swings like jazz. But it's also deeply rooted in South Indian tradition. Radhakrishan says he became conversant in both forms almost by happenstance.

The process by which he learned is called *gurukulam*, and it's exactly what the word implies. "These days, everyone studies by going to their teacher for an hour, going home, going to a teacher for an hour, going home," said Radhakrishan. "In India the traditional method is you live there, study with him, and do everything for him." In this case, Gopalnath was the guru. He taught Radhakrishan how to play by rote, usually by singing the melodies and requiring the saxophonist to write them down or play them back on his horn. During his summers in Mangalore, Radhakrishan woke up at 5 a.m. and practiced all day every day. He stood in the corner and practiced while Gopalnath said his prayers. Gopalnath brought Radhakrishan on tours, made him load up the equipment, and had him sit at the back of the stage counting beats on his fingers.

Show Details

VidyA performs Thursday, Apr. 1, at Julia Morgan Young People's Performing Arts Center (2640 College Ave., Berkeley). 8 p.m. $10-$20. PrasantMusic.com

To call that "arduous" would be an understatement. But the rigors of *gurukulam* paid tremendous dividends for Radhakrishan, who spent the rest of his high school career studying jazz at a similarly intense level. At home he listened to every horn playing legend in the Blue Note catalog, played in the all-star jazz bands, and eventually went on to study music and international relations at USC. After graduating, he got a performing arts fellowship from the American Institute of India Studies, which allowed him to spend a full year working in India. He formed VidyA in 2005 and recorded the group's self-titled album in late 2007. Roughly translated, the band's name means "knowledge" or "pursuit of a higher purpose."

"The first chapter was to bring these two forms together and have a natural sound without stepping on either side too directly," said Radhakrishan, who is working on a second VidyA album. The next phase, he says, is to meld jazz and South Indian music in an even more intricate way.

With a Zellerbach grant and two concurrent artist residencies — one at Oakland Asian Cultural Center, the other at Red Poppy Art House — Radhakrishan stands at an interesting juncture in his career. He's aware of America's obsession with Indian imports (in everything from Zakir Hussain to *Slumdog Millionaire*) but he's also wary of anything with East-West cachet. In fact, Radhakrishan is somewhat of a traditionalist. He traffics in hybrid forms but fixates on purity. Some listeners compare his material to Coltrane. The analogy doesn't make that much sense to Radhakrishan, except on an abstract level. "I think it might be because of what he was chasing for with some of the Indian music he studied," the saxophonist said. "He was going for that spiritual aspect. My teacher gave me that from the beginning, so it's just kinda been a part of me." ●

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OLD-TIME RELIGION

Patty Griffin goes gospel with *Downtown Church*

By Dave Gil de Rubio

For someone who let her Catholicism lapse during adulthood despite being raised in the faith as a child, it might seem strange for Patty Griffin to make her latest project an album of nearly all gospel songs. But that's exactly what she did with *Downtown Church* thanks to the suggestion of EMI executive Peter York and the help of good friend and session musician Buddy Miller. In fact, the only way Griffin deigned to go down this route was if Miller was involved. "[Buddy] is one of the best people that I've ever met — a lovely person and talented beyond where most people will ever get, and humble, so being around him is a joy," said Griffin. "On top of all of that, he also has more knowledge of traditional American music of all kinds than anybody I know."

Even though the red-haired singer-songwriter had some ideas about material she wanted to possibly include on what would become *Downtown Church*, Miller eagerly aided in Griffin's continued education about the genre she was tentatively approaching. He suggested three hundred songs, which led to a technological meltdown. "I didn't have any more room on my laptop's memory, so it crashed," she laughingly recalled.

Miller also set the tone for the project by securing recording space in Nashville's historic Downtown Presbyterian Church (a 160-year-old building once used as hospital space for injured Union soldiers) and assembling a backup band consisting of Griffin's longtime musician friends. Having spent the past two decades crafting a career for herself as an award-winning artist whose songs have been covered by the likes of the Dixie Chicks, Bette Midler, and Linda Ronstadt, Griffin was able to recruit other famous names from her black book including Emmylou Harris and Raul Malo.

The results are an uplifting journey into the world of religious music that comes off as neither sanctimonious nor judgmental. There's the crisp patter of the traditional "Move Up," where the snappy cadences and generous reverb make it sound like a vintage Sun Records single. There's also an ethereal walk through the gospel standard "Wade in the Water," which reverberates with noirish guitar twang and Jordanaires-flavored harmonies. Elsewhere, the Dorothy Love Coates gem "The Strange Man" finds Griffin passionately testifying amid quite a bit of call-and-response and John Deaderick's rich organ runs. Most impressive are two self-penned contributions — "Little Fire" and "Coming Home to Me" — both built around personal views of faith, with the former being framed as a straightforward folk song and the latter buoyed by strings, piano, and Julie Miller's vocal accompaniment.

The only odd duck in the bunch is a reading of the Leiber & Stoller nugget "I Smell a Rat." The inspiration came from Miller's decision to play Big Mama Thornton's reading of it in the church as a means of inspiring the assembled musicians. It became such a part of the week-long recording session that the decision was made to commit it to tape, much to the delight of the rhythm section. Smiling back on the notion to plug something so secular into these sacred proceedings, Griffin said, "If you really try to tie it in thematically, it's like tipping your hat to skepticism. And it's real life if your boyfriend or husband is a drunken bum. It's life, and I feel like [the song] fits in surprisingly well."

Patty Griffin

Show Details
Patty Griffin performs with Buddy Miller at Zellerbach Hall (Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Apr. 5, 8 p.m. $35. CalPerfs.berkeley.edu

As for Griffin's love affair with gospel music, it all began with the Staple Singers, the royal family of crossover religious music, who the Maine native was introduced to by friend and producer Craig Ross about eleven years ago. "I was visiting Craig in his studio here in Austin and he had some music playing when I walked in," she recalled. "I loved it and when I asked him who it was, he said it was the Staple Singers from back in the 1950s when Mavis was a baby. He ended up giving me my first Staples Singers record. I ended up listening to them and it never got off my CD player for years and years. I found myself getting influenced by the music in the way I wrote and I also found that in times of trouble, you put on the Staple Singers and everything is going to be okay. That was the music for me for many years. I feel like they're in the same world as the Beatles — a very strong presence in my life."

Of course, the question that remains to be asked is if this self-professed "lapsed Catholic" ended up gleaning anything from this creative walk down such an overtly spiritual path.

"I think it did really get me over the hump of having prejudices against other people's religious choices," she admitted. "I left Catholicism and I have my reasons for that and I think I walked around with a protective shield over me. Anything that smelled like something [religious] I pooh-poohed. I don't anymore. I think I have a more open mind about people's choices and I grew up a little bit that way." ●

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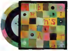
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EAR BUD

ONE MUSICIAN, 100 RECORDS, 200 SONGS

Sonny Smith celebrates 100 Records project, plus local showcases and a memorial for a longtime punk writer

By Kathleen Wentz

San Francisco singer-songwriter **Sonny Smith** has always taken a character-driven approach to his music. In fact, he began his music career while working on a screenplay-turned-movie, turning dialogue and plot structure into songs. He often assumes the persona of a fictional character, or features guest singers as characters in his songs.

So it wasn't a huge stretch when Smith was attempting to write a novel last year that incorporated fictionalized musicians that then tempted him to think about what their album covers might look like, and songs might sound like. He thought it'd be cool to write fictional songs for the fictional characters, and applied for and received a residency at the **Headlands Center for the Arts** to pursue the idea. He assigned a couple of the covers to artists who were also at the Headlands at the time, but soon realized his sketches weren't sufficient. "I can't have rough sketches and one really incredible piece," he recalled. Likewise, the songs couldn't be rough either. "So that's where it quickly went to the next level from my original idea, what I was thinking it was going to be," he said. "The novel got shelved immediately because once I got artists to work on the record cover it wasn't hard to see that this was the project."

Fitting with Smith's ambitious nature, he decided to commission 100 different record covers and write 200 songs (two per record). A little more than a year after starting the project, Smith will celebrate the finished *100 Records* project with a show at **Gallery 16** (501 3rd St., San Francisco), which displays the art until May 31. The opening reception happens Friday, April 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. A jukebox will spin all 200 songs and Smith will perform with his band, **the Sunsets**.

Smith says that for the most part he kept the art-making and songwriting processes separate. He supplied the artists a list of the fictional bands he created and the names of their albums. After the artists chose their album title

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to illustrate, Smith would simultaneously go about writing the songs on his own. "More often than not, they really work well together."

Contrary to what one might envision, Smith said he didn't come up with band names based upon genres. "I tried to not fall into some sort of cliché where it's like 'here's my reggae band, here's my country band' ... I would come up with a band name like the **Fuckaroos** — they kinda sound like some sort of junky **Sir Douglas Quintet** band — a little rough around the edges." In tandem, he'd also write short bios for them. (The Fuckaroos started in 1968 in Cincinnati.) Then when he started recording songs, it would become obvious which band it was for.

Naturally, some bands were more inspiring than others. For example, Smith said he wrote a whole album's worth of material for **Zig Speck and the Speektones** — but had a harder time writing for **Connie's Superette Crew**. None of the bands were extreme deviations from Smith's "safe zone," except for **Walter "the Goat"** — a "Jamaican dude" he imagined once part of **Lee Scratch Perry's Black Ark**, who relocated to Cambodia. "I was trying to come up with the freakiest weird music that would fit this guy's storyline," said Smith. "I won't reveal what I did, but I think I pulled it off."

Smith wrote all of the material, and enlisted musicians to help him record, including **Rusty Miller**, **James Finch**, **Kelley Stoltz**, and others; guests included **Tim Cohen** from **the Fresh and Onlys**, **Ty Segall**, **the Sandwitches**, and (still to be recorded) **Bart Davenport**. At least three box sets are planned to be released in the next four or five months, said Smith, but not all songs will be available. After all, "they're not all hits."

Despite the ambitiousness of 100 Records, Smith says he already has another project in mind. He wants to do an installation of the album-making process called "Record Plant," which would include everything from initial songwriting to a trip to the lawyer's office. Patrons would order a song, an artist would make the record cover, Smith would write the song, and the end product would be purchasable. "That could be fun," he surmised. "If I get through this, I'll do that."

Benefit Show for MRR's Bruce Roehrs

Some local punk bands are helping to raise funds for the memorial of longtime ***Maximum Rock N Roll*** columnist **Bruce Roehrs**, who passed away on March 13. **Texas Thieves**, **Sharp Objects**, **Ruleta Rusa** and **Bad Tickers** will play a show on Friday, April 2, at **Thee Parkside**. Roehrs' memorial service will be held Friday, April 9, at the Columbarium (1 Loraine Ct., San Francisco) from 1 to 4 p.m. A show at Thee Parkside will follow.

Miscellaneous Debris

1320 Records, the label founded by **STS9**, will hold its first showcase event called **1320.SF** on Thursday, April 1, at **Temple**. The event aims to highlight local electronic artists like the **Flying Skulls** and **Savage Henry**. California Americana musicians will gather for the **First California Telecaster Summit** at **Cafe du Nord** on Friday, April 2. Celebrating the twangy sound of the Fender guitar will be **Jason Jay Harris**, **77 El Deora**, **Merle Jagger**, and **East Bay Grease**. ●

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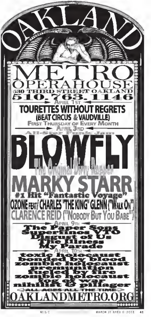
Ear Bud is culled from our music blog, Ear Bud.



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SIXTIES TO EIGHTIES REDUX

Synth-pop anthems, intimidating pianist, and melodic power-pop.

Goldfrapp

Head First

The case can be made that artists like Goldfrapp function like the pop music's doorman, showing artists the way to commercial success while not necessarily passing the threshold themselves. Whether we're talking the electro-glitter of 2003's *Black Cherry* and 2005's *Supernature*, or the actual freak talk of 2007's *Seventh Tree*, the duo of Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have maintained a place slightly ahead of the curve — meaning that they get the honor of watching those slightly behind them get big in their wake.

Whether that changes with the release of *Head First* has to do with how viable this taut, economical ode to the Eighties is. It's one of the most unabashed love letters to anthemic Eighties synth pop ever laid to hard disc, with arena-ready choruses and blindingly shiny keyboard riffs finding common ground among Van Halen (the "Jump"-y bounce of lead single "Rocket"), Billy Joel (the jaunty piano jog of "Alive") and Laura Branigan (the belting insistence of "Head First").

If that sounds like an unappealing clarion call from a dark musical period that you're still trying to forget, this isn't the album for you. But for those of us who weren't beaten up by Harold Faltermeyer in a dream, *Head First* is a wondrous piece of creative anachronism. (Mute)

— *Daniel Brockman*

Dan Zemelman Quartet

One Way or Another

Pianist Dan Zemelman delivered a rather surprising album this year — surprising in the sense that it doesn't come with a unifying concept or a pretty patina, but it's a fine listen nonetheless. Zemelman is, after all, an astonishingly good pianist. He uses choice voicings, he obviously listens carefully to his other band members, and he writes some interesting song heads. Perhaps the best example is "Jeff en Paradise," a Latin tune that manages to sustain a fast-paced clave beat without sounding bright and buoyant. In fact, there's not a lot of brightness in Zemelman's playing. He uses cool modern harmonies and emphasizes the dark edges of each chord. His tunes propel themselves forward with driving rhythms, but in his solos Zemelman often moves in and out of time. If you listen hard, you'll catch him singing along with his improvisations.

His other secret weapon is Erik Jekabson, an excellent trumpeter who plays on most of the heads, either solo or in tandem with Zemelman. As second melodic instrument in command, Jekabson adds shape to the band. He's a dynamic player, capable of producing long, fat notes or quick, fluttery cadenzas, as he does on the title track. Bassist Fred Randolph and drummer Alan Hall form the broad canvas of the rhythm section. They hang back for most of the album, driving the beat on "Paradise" and shifting grooves on the funky "The Nearness of Fu." Zemelman includes only two standards, and they're both deconstructed and given new names ("Fu" and "I'll Remember (to Forget) April").

The material here doesn't have the same intentionally difficult or earth-shatteringly experimental qualities that you sometimes hear in contemporary jazz, but it's really well put together. (ZemJazz)

— *Rachel Swan*

Dan Zemelman Quartet performs at the Red Poppy Art House (2698 Folsom St., San Francisco) on Friday, Apr. 30, 8 p.m., $12-$15. RedPoppyArtHouse.org

The Orange Peels

2020

The Orange Peels are one of the Bay Area's best secrets — they know power pop (or indie pop, not always interchangeable) inside and out and deserve to be in the pantheon of peers George Usher, the Apples in Stereo, and Camera Obscura. Like them, the Peels freely draw upon heart-on-sleeve 1960s melodiousness (Kinks, Hollies, Beach Boys) and similarly inspired Eighties UK punk poppers (the Flatmates, Pastels, Heavenly), but the results never sound as if they belong to another era. (Well, ever-so-faintly.)

Most of the songs on *2020* — the Peels' fourth album (and also the title of a 1969 Beach Boys album) — crackle and surge with palpable urgency, belying the often wistful, melancholic content of the lyrics. The melodic hooks are bright and clever but terse and heartfelt — at times evoking the Apples without the unctuous, smart-ass tone that blights some of their stuff. If you're a fan of this style, you'll find it impossible not to smile during "Shining Like Stars," with its lean, fuzzed-out guitar motif (echoing the Guess Who's "No Time") and Sweet-like stomping beat and handclaps. I wish present-day Cheap Trick could come up with a psychedelic-tinged cruncher such as "Birds of a Feather." The gorgeously plush co-ed harmonies of "Broken Wing" might recall many great vocal harmony groups, but they don't emulate any of them — they're unique to the Orange Peels. Those shiny shards of shimmering guitar weaving through them don't hurt either.

The Orange Peels are going to have a hard time topping this one — heck, anybody would. If this 'zine gave stars, I'd give *2020* five of 'em. (Minty Fresh)

— *Mark Keresman*

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Scattered Like Birds

Trifecta of Love

With a sound that ranges from Sonic Youth-like drone rock to charmingly folksy almost-pop in the space of just four songs, *Trifecta of Love* is an impressive little EP. Vocals are imperfect but in a likable way; guitars are appealingly jangly. Overall it manages to sound reminiscent of a lot of great bands without being derivative — never an easy feat to pull off. (self-released)

At Mama Buzz Cafe (2318 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on April 4, 7 p.m., free.

Scraping for Change

Breaking the Silence

If you're a fan of emo/screamo, Scraping for Change may be the band for you. If not, you may want to bypass this EP. It's not bad, but it is pretty generic. Given some time, Scraping for Change may evolve into something more interesting, but they're going to need to break out of the box a little first. (self-released)

At Slim's (333 11th St., San Francisco) on April 2, 8 p.m., $14.

Spandex Tiger

Dune Hag

Some people really miss the Seventies and Eighties. *Dune Hag* is a throwback to the hair metal and cock rock eras with a few modern touches thrown in. Not quite as steeped in self-referential hipster irony as the Darkness, it's like stepping into an audio time machine. Musically, it's mostly what you'd expect, so the question is, how much do you miss Krokus? (self-released)

At Grant & Green Saloon (1371 Grant Ave., San Francisco) on April 3, 9:30 p.m., free.

Stereo Freakout

If Wishes Were Fishes

Mostly funk, with a lot of ska and a bit of rock, it's kind of hard to figure out what Stereo Freakout is going for stylistically. *If Wishes Were Fishes* is competent enough, and the musicianship is solid, but it's not particularly interesting. There are some signs of promise, here, but the band still has a way to go. (self-released)

At Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on April 3, 9 p.m., $10.

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the East Bay Express. To share this story, go to: ebx.by.pr/licks

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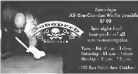
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Gorillaz: tickets go on sale Sunday, April 4 at 10 am. Tue., June 29, 8 p.m. [illegible]. The Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St.
Phish: tickets go on sale Friday, April 2 at 10 am. Thu., Aug. 5, 7 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 6, 7 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 7, 7 p.m. $60. Greek Theatre, Gayley Rd. at Hearst Ave. (UC Berkeley), Berkeley.

THURSDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

David Lindley Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $24.50-$25.50
[illegible] & The Kitchen Band Ammando's, 8 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 pm, $7
[illegible] & Jeff Campbell Kimball's, 11 pm, free

Classical & Opera

[illegible] solo guitar. Cafe Casa Wine Bar, Restaurant & Gallery, 7-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Band swing jazz. King Yen Chinese Restaurant, 6:30-9 pm, free
Thursday Night Live [illegible] Ivy Room, [illegible], 8-10 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Dedicated [illegible] Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $8-$10
[illegible] Kingman's Ivy Room, 5 pm
The Jeff Magidson Band, Good Red House Live, 7:30 pm, $8-$10
[illegible] w/ Bobby Joe, Dead & The Children, [illegible], & The Clam Gems, 924 Gilman, 7 pm, $5-$10
The Sweaters [illegible] Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Unplugged live R&B, soul, & plus [illegible] plus [illegible] after 11 p.m. Club Room, 8 pm, $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Salsa Night w/ DJ Eddie & plus dance lessons. Yoshi's [illegible], 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Tribute to [illegible] featuring [illegible], Andy [illegible], Raymond Jeffrey & the [illegible], & more, [illegible], 8 pm, [illegible]
Fat [illegible] [illegible] Blues, 8 pm, $15
Songwriters in the Round featuring [illegible], Austin Willacy, Stewart Lewis, & Chris McClain, Hotel Utah, 5 pm, $8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Mr. Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Laurent Fourgo & His Ensemble French & [illegible] jazz standards. Le Colonial, 7:30-10 pm, free
[illegible] Brick House, 8 pm, $36
Uptown Jazz Band The Music Store, 6 pm, free

Rock & Pop

1599.SF featuring David Murphy & David Phipps, Kenya Dub Orchestra, The Flying Skulls, Virtual Boy & Savage Henry & [illegible], Kilowatt, Temple, 9 pm, $10
[illegible] & The Reynolds Red Devil Lounge, 8 pm, $15-$30
[illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, $5-$8
Jonny Craig w/ [illegible], Eye Alaska, [illegible], & Mod Sun, [illegible], 7:30 pm, $12
[illegible] w/ White Mike, [illegible], & Nuclear Death Wish, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6
Rock 'n' Roll with [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9:30 pm, free
Surfer Blood Amoeba Music, 6 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] & The Wolf, Crawford, & [illegible], Thee Parkside, 8:30 pm, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The [illegible] Coda, 9:30 pm, [illegible]
Zion I Fiddlehow [illegible], 8:30 pm, $18-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Thursdays Carnia Zerteño presents music & dance w/ traditional [illegible] performers, [illegible], 8 pm, $12
[illegible] & [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$20, $5 kids for Sunday matinee

FRIDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

David T. [illegible] & [illegible] Ammando's, 8 pm, $10
Hot [illegible] Rum Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $24.50-$25.50
[illegible] Kimball's, 11 pm, [illegible]
Lil Pookie and the Zydeco Sensations Eagles Hall, 9 pm, $15
[illegible] Band [illegible], 8:30 pm, free
[illegible] & the [illegible] [illegible] live rum [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, free
The Independent w/ The Good Luck Thrift Store Outfit, [illegible], Starry Plough, 5 pm, $8

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Laurent Ensemble w/ [illegible], Plus $3 [illegible], 8 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Brad [illegible] Trio Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30, $5 kids for Sunday matinee
[illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Fridays 8th Street Independent Space, 8 pm, $5-$15
[illegible], Harmony Tour featuring [illegible], Joe Ariana, Brad Street House of Music, 8 pm, $10-$20
[illegible] Jazzschool, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Rocco Expire, & [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ Flint Ark, Red House Live, 8 pm, $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible], & The Famous Few, Uptown, 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jerry Harmony 33 Sensations Record Shop & Cafe, 7:30 pm, free
[illegible] featuring Jeffrey Osborne, Peabo Bryson, Freddie Jackson & Rosie [illegible], Paramount Theatre, 7:30 pm, $38.75-$75.75

More Listings Online
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World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Caribbean Allstars w/ Pan Essay, [illegible], 8:30 pm, $15, [illegible]
[illegible] & Jose Franco La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$20
LaCasa Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10-$15
Reggae Party DJ Sweet Finger spinning Calypso, R&B and Reggae w/ [illegible] and [illegible] performers and DJs, Room, [illegible], 8 pm

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible] Tribute Band featuring Jesse Jay Harris, 77 El Rocco, East Bay [illegible] & David Hegger, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $12
[illegible] Rocco & [illegible], 8:30 pm, $22
Passenger and [illegible] w/ Cello Vibes, All My Pretty Ones, [illegible], 8 pm, free
[illegible] & Living Band The Fillmore, 8 pm, $25

Classical & Opera

Alma [illegible] mezzo-soprano performs songs by Elgar, Duparc, Stanford & more. [illegible], 8 pm, $33-$40

Experimental & Avant-Garde

New Keys 2010 Community [illegible] Center, 8 pm, $15, [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Mr. Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] Jazz [illegible] Top of the Mark, 9 pm-1 am, $10
Shotgun [illegible] Symphony Coda, 10 pm, $10
[illegible] Boom Boom Room, 8 pm, $40

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Le Vice, [illegible], Stop, 8:30 pm, $8-$8
[illegible] featuring Los [illegible], The Phenomenauts, [illegible] & more, DNA Lounge, 10 pm, $16-$20
The Band w/ Pookie Idaho, I Love My Label, [illegible], 9 pm, $5-$8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], 5 pm, $8
DJ [illegible] solo piano. [illegible] Lounge, 6-9 pm, free
[illegible] w/ Just Rad, [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $8-$10
Larry Graham & Graham Central Station The Regency Center, 9 pm, $44-$54
The [illegible] w/ [illegible], The Wrong Words, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $6
Swinging for Change w/ Solid State Logic, Cavernlust Drive, & Fever Charm, [illegible], 8 pm, $14
[illegible] w/ Turbo Fruits, [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 10 pm, $12
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Thee Parkside, 9:30 pm, $7

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring Freeway and Jake One, Freddie Gibbs, Jern Eye, J-Billion, Rocco & [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $15
Zion I The Independent, 9 pm, $18-$20

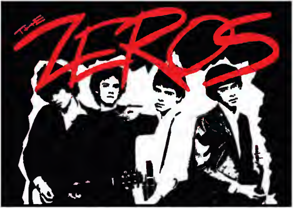
World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Nights Buena Vista Style Latin dancing w/ [illegible], [illegible], Peña Pachamama, 8:30 pm, $15-$20
[illegible] & [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$26, $5 kids for Sunday matinee
[illegible] w/ Palante Soul Tribe, Funky C & Jaya, [illegible] Room, 10 pm, $10-$15

SATURDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country



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THU	Rock the Box $2 High Life Draft • $5 PBR & Rebel Yell
FRI	East Bay's Got Soul w/ DJ Top Banana DJ Chicano & guests
SAT	Free Pool • Noon–7 "The Top" w/ DJ Salvatore Valentino electro pop post punk & rock
SUN	Tamale Sunday Free food! 2pm–??

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TUES 4/6 8PM FREE	PILSON THE SOFT WHITE SIXTIES ANNIE BACON
FRI 4/9 9PM $8	ORNETTE COLEMAN W/ TREVOR DUNN BEN GOLDBERG, BOB SUDDUTH SCOTT AMENDOLA, AMENDOLA VS BLADES
SAT 4/10 9PM $8	JOE BAGALE, THE [illegible] NUBE WARBULL, FREDDI PRINCE
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MONDAYS 7:00 PM LESSON, 8:00 PM DANCING / FREE TRADITIONAL IRISH DANCE & CEILI	WEDNESDAYS 8:00 PM • $7 DOOR BERKELEY POETRY SLAM Featuring [illegible] touring poets. $150 in cash prizes

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Killed Rabbit Spoonbender, 8:30 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, free
[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50-$30.50
[illegible] Caffe [illegible], 1 pm, $20, $10 kids, $10 [illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Inner Ear [illegible] Starry [illegible], 9 pm, $10

Experimental & Avant Garde

Pacific Exchange 2010 featuring [illegible], Amy Hebditch, & [illegible] Gallery/Performance Space, 4 pm, $10-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] The Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$20, $5 kids for Sunday [illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Express & Hot Pink Feathers, Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $5-7
[illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm, free
The [illegible] Mix of Jazz, Soul, & [illegible] w/ California [illegible], Johnny B's, 8 pm, $15-$25, includes [illegible] food
The [illegible] The New Parish, 9 pm, $7

[illegible] Jazzschool, 8 pm, $12
Larry Stoll Jazz Quartet Albatross Pub, 9:30 pm, $3
What's Up Big Band [illegible], [illegible] Library, 2 pm, free

Kids

The [illegible] La Peña [illegible] Center, 10:30 am, $5, $4 kids
Amy Meyers Caffe [illegible], 3 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, free
The [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $8
[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Phonecos, [illegible] on Telegraph, 9 pm, $10

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Beat Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Anniversary [illegible] featuring [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], Oakland Metro Operahouse, 9 pm, $15-$20
La Peña 35th Anniversary Edition, The Park Presents... Vol. 3 featuring [illegible], [illegible], Melina Jones, & more, La Peña Cultural Center, 9 pm, $10, $7 [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Revolution & DJ [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $8-$10
Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, Ruben Fingers, 9 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10, $6 students

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ The Tenderfoots, Fuzzy Slippers, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8-$10
John Lee Hooker Jr. [illegible] Party, [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $22
[illegible] [illegible] music w/ [illegible], Caffe Trieste, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free
[illegible] String Band The Fillmore, 8 pm, $25

Classical & Opera

The [illegible] String [illegible] [illegible] Theatre, 8 pm, $32-$49

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] musical revue and [illegible] pop-culture figures [illegible], 7 & 10 pm, $25-$31
[illegible] Cafe, 10 pm, $10
[illegible] Dogpatch Saloon, 9-11 pm, free
[illegible] playing and jazz [illegible], Top

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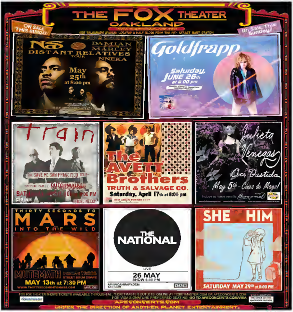

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PICKS

Amon Amarth.

Amon Amarth

Swedish death metal band **Amon Amarth** can initially come off like a parody: They sing about Vikings and Norse mythology, have performed on a Viking boat and re-enacted *Lord of the Rings*-style battles onstage, and synchronize simultaneous headbanging à la Deicide. Yet the 22-year-old band seamlessly translates that image to its music. Hence, one can almost feel thundering hooves on the open plain in the galloping riffs of "The Pursuit of Vikings," the lust of a child in "The Fate of Norns," or the call-to-arms of "Valkyries Ride." The band has perfected the mid-tempo death-metal anthem: tremolo picking layered with a simple, repeated melodic guitar line, a rousing chorus, and, of course, plenty of double-bass. Swedish singer Johan Hegg has a deeply gravelly voice that verges on ridiculous, but his charisma carries the band's authenticity. Plus, he's got a great laugh. Amon Amarth plays with **Fear Factory**, **Eluveitie**, and **Dirge Within** at **the Regency Ballroom** (1290 Sutter St., San Francisco) on Friday, Apr. 2. 8 p.m. $25, $27. TheRegencyBallroom.com — *Kathleen Wentz*

The Hot Air Music Festival

I'm so blown away by San Francisco Conservatory of Music's **Hot Air Music Festival** that, it's a rare ball to [illegible] across the bay, I urge you to go. With special guests Sqwonk and the Picasso Quartet, the free eight-hour marathon, an easy walk from Civic Center BART, raises music by Reich, Ligeti, Shostakovich, Crumb, Chessa, Amod, Xenakis, Glass, Corigliano, Kernis, Pärt, Adams, Schnittke, Wolfe, and Reich with fare by lesser known new music composers. Boy, is this going to be rich. Imagine it follows by a week the extremely adventurous Switchboard New Music Festival. Contrast that with the political arena, where Republicans are still yelling, "Kill the bill." Nuts, eh? At **San Francisco Conservatory of Music** (50 Oak St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Apr. 4. 2-10 p.m. free. HotAirMusic.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Hot Buttered Rum

Long [illegible] the [illegible] of the jam band scene, **Hot Buttered Rum** has been playing its brand of infectious newgrass for just over a decade. Throwing in elements of world music, jazz, and country alongside the high lonesome twang of bluegrass, Hot Buttered Rum traces its roots back to the traditional stylings of Bill Monroe and Ricky Skaggs. The band also simultaneously resides in the same stylistic neighborhood as Béla Fleck & Flecktones and the String Cheese Incident. Still hitting the road in support of last year's *Limbo Akimbo*, Hot Buttered Rum may very well be showcasing new material by fiddler/vocalist Aaron Redner, whose solo project *City by the Bay* is set to drop in April. This Bay Area hoedown will happen Friday, Apr. 2 at **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8 p.m. $24.50-$25.50. TheFreight.org — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

The Magnolia Sisters

Recently nominated for a Grammy, **the Magnolia Sisters** are four formidable female musicians. Ann Savoy is well known for playing accordion, guitar, and fiddle with her husband Marc in the Savoy Doucet Cajun Band; fiddler/guitarist Jane Vidrine has played Cajun music all her life, as has bass player and percussionist Lisa Trahan and fiddler/guitarist Anya Burgess. The group mixes Cajun dancehall standards with Creole folk songs, blues, swamp-band favorites, and traditional a cappella ballads. Their chilling harmonies and virtuosic ensemble playing has made them one of the most popular acts on the folk circuit. The Magnolia Sisters play Sunday, Apr. 4 at **the Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley). 8 p.m., $20.50, $21.50. TheFreight.org — *J. poet*

Project: Pimento

The theremin gained its initial notoriety as an eerie source of supernatural tension on Forties and Fifties film soundtracks. It found brief fame as a live performance instrument in classical scores and even a few pop songs, but was consigned to the margins by more traditionally played electronic instruments. San Francisco's **Project: Pimento** resuscitates the theremin as a lead instrument and duet voice in its frothy mix of easy listening tunes, spicy Latin favorites, smooth soundtrack oldies, and high-flying space-age bachelor pad favorites. The five-piece combo, fronted by Dr. Robby Virus' theremin and Lola Bombay's sultry vocals, provides the soundtrack for Thrillville's James Bond Nite (which also features classic spy cinema, trivia, prizes, and cocktails that are shaken, not stirred) on Thursday, Apr. 1 at **Kingman's Ivy Room** (860 San Pablo Ave., Albany). 9 p.m., free. KingmansCocktails.com — *Eli Messinger*

Project: Pimento.

C&C

of the Mask, 9 pm-1 am, $5-10
[illegible] Brick Room, 8 pm, $40

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Serge Gainsbourg Dance Party featuring The [illegible], Monsoon, 9 pm, $5-10
Dispatch w/ [illegible], 9 pm, [illegible]
South Valley High w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $5-$8
The English Beat w/ The Impalers, Slim's 333 Club, 8 pm, $22
An Evening With The Contributors featuring Tim Carbone of Railroad Earth, Keith Moseley & Jason Hann of String Cheese Incident, & Phil Ferlino & Jeff Miller of New Monsoon, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20
Fire for Fighting w/ Matt Wertz, The

Regency Center 8 pm, $25-$32

Phenomenauts The Independent, 9 pm, $20

Disco & [illegible] Happy Hour Shoes w/ [illegible] Three Parlarde. 3-8 pm, free

The Low [illegible] w/ Hailey, Ella [illegible] & Greg Ashley, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $7

Scissors For Lefty w/ The Hundred Days, [illegible] Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $10-$12

Spanish Tiger Grand & Orders, 9 pm, $[illegible]

Tyrone [illegible] [illegible] Rap Jay, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $14-$16

Woolly Sesions w/ [illegible] Tres Pad-side, 4 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Benefit for City of Hope Cancer Center of LA featuring The [illegible], Fungo Woolly & [illegible], Slim's, 8:30 pm, $20

Funk [illegible] Mojito, 8 pm, $0

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ The Pink Panzer, [illegible] & [illegible], Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 4 & 10 pm, $18-$20, $5 and for Sunday [illegible]

SUNDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Combo Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $20.50-$24.50

Woolly [illegible] Barbeti's, 11 pm, free

The Story Club Sessions [illegible] to play tech music w/ host [illegible] Plough, 4-7 pm, sliding scale

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Hour [illegible] Trio Yoshi's, 2, 4, 7 pm, $18-$30, $5 kids for Sunday [illegible]

Lyons [illegible] Jupiter, 4-20 pm, $10

McNight's [illegible] [illegible] Jam Zazu's Underground Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-10 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

A [illegible] Foundation w/ Nothing to Nothing, The Challenge, Saint Club, 9 pm, $10

[illegible] Showcase Kennel, 7:30 pm, $6

[illegible] w/ Saint Vernon, [illegible], Eastern [illegible] & [illegible] Grady, [illegible] 7 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 3:30 pm, free

Domingo de Rumba Afro-Cuban [illegible] and dance party, Cafe Valparaiso, 3:30-8:30 pm, $[illegible]

Cafe [illegible] Collins's Hour 11 am-1 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Harvey and [illegible] Hour [illegible] pm, Bite's [illegible], 8:30 pm, $[illegible]

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 6 pm-midnight, $5

Classical & Opera

Hot Air Music Festival featuring SQWONK, The Picasso Quartet, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 2 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel [illegible] w/ [illegible] Portent & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 am & 1 pm, $59 includes brunch

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon [illegible] show and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 2 & 6 pm, $25-$72

Hot [illegible] Trio Chaya Brasserie, 6-9 pm, free

Bruce Labonne & Friends featuring Andrew Speight, [illegible], & Mark [illegible], Reggaeton Saloon, 4:30-8:30 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

Billy & Dolly w/ [illegible] Haut Shah, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ Broadway Calls, Cobra Skulls, & Longway, Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hagaard's Cure, The [illegible], 8 pm, $5

[illegible] For Animals w/ [illegible] Lady, & [illegible] and the Kids, Rickshaw Stop, 7 pm, $8-$10

Terry [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Trickspot w/ Tubers, SF School Of Rock, & Pegman, 4 Star Room, Bottom of the Hill, 5 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] & Amanda Yoshi's San Francisco, 5 & 7 pm, $18-$26, $5 kids for Sunday [illegible]

"Salsa Sundays" w/ rotating live bands, salsa dance [illegible] Ti Rio, 3 pm, $8

MONDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Polly [illegible] w/ [illegible], Zellerbach Hall, 8 pm, $30

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Terry Disley's "Big" Experience Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10

"Uptown [illegible]" live Jazzpoet w/ [illegible] Revue, Uptown, 9 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Chas Sandoval, Amir Coyle, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 4 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

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The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994

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Roccapulco Club 150 Fell St., 415-861-2011

[illegible] 478 Diamond St., 415-387-6344

[illegible] 222 Mason St.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275

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Club [illegible] 333 11th St., 415-522-0333

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Club Kat 390 5th St., 415-863-0823

[illegible] Gallery 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227

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[illegible] Lounge 443 Broadway St., 415-278-0324

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C&C

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SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Cal Gig Band w/ Kenny Washington, Jazz at Pearl's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$18
Keith Waterbo Rasselas, 8 pm, $21.50

Rock & Pop

Angels & Airwaves w/ Say Anything, The Warfield, 8 pm, $37.75-$70.00
Darling w/ Society Artists, Rockers, 5 Tank Attack, El Rio, 7 pm, free
Jones Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5 pm, free
Mirthquake w/ Havard Pony, Kimo's, 9 pm, $5-$8
Owl City The Fillmore, 8:30 pm, TBA
Paddle Hi Model w/ Bust Hawk, The Hemlock, Slims, 8 pm, $25
Roscoe Deluca Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Bellavia w/ Ruscias, Doc Food, 8 pm, $4

TUESDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Tuesday Night w/ Johnny Jinks, Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free
Lil Pookie & the Zydeco Sensations Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $11

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angela Mastrandonio piano music, Caffe di Bacco, 6-9 pm, free
Jennifer Hart & Khalil Shah-Anthony Cuckoo's Nest, 7-9 pm, free
Kenny Washington & Marcus & Ardi Yoshi's, 8 pm, $16

SAN FRANCISCO

Classical & Opera

Alice Wollerstein Herbst Theatre, 8 pm, $27-$42

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Faith Winthrop Hotel Rex, 8 pm, $7.50
Jazz Mafia Tuesdays Cafe, 9 pm, $7
Jennifer Spaine playing soft jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 7 pm-midnight, $5-$10
Swingy Jones Verdi Club, 9:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Brass Breed w/ the Beat Jews, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $15
The Jennifer Grassi Almanac Music Hall, 8 pm, $20
David Knight w/ Jennifer Faust, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $7
Diego's Umbrella Park Chalet Brewery, 6:30 pm, free
Flood w/ Snail, Ramshead, Kimo's, 9 pm, $6-$8
Jeepster w/ Build Us Airplanes, 1-Play Faust, The Ambassadors Never Mind, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $9
Owl City The Fillmore, 6:30 pm, TBA

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Rock 'n' Roll with Rocco Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5:30 pm, free
Ryli w/ Love Of Mars, El Rio, 8 pm, $8

WEDNESDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Kickin' the Mule Ashkenaz, 5 pm, $10
Monica Pasqual / Bruce Allardice Eli's Jerome Freight's, 8 pm, $10
Whiskey Albatross Lawrence and Rhodes, Albatross Pub, 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bruce Vin Anton, 8 pm, free
Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Inflatables Mason's Sports Bar & Grill, 5 pm, free
Rocklughoose & Paul Sherwood Armando's, 8 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Orquestra Marnela Shattuck Down Low, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Country Jam w/ Jennie & Chuck, Plough and Stars, 8 pm, free
Curtis Salgado Jennifer S. Blues, 8 pm, $10
Mint Glock w/ Goldfingers, Drowning the Crow, El Rio, 8 pm, $6

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bossa Jennifer Babylon Jennifer band and spirit of pop culture figures in which Sepe Wise travels around the Hotel to the side of Prince Charming, Club Fugue, 8 pm, $15-$17
The Marcus the the Blonde Blonde Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10
Raja Rayoti w/ guitarist Bobby Cotton III, Waterfront Restaurant The Lounge, 7-10:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Adam Saona w/ The Good Feet, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $15
Autolfoxix w/ Elk Dear, Shovelware, Popstrew, 5 pm, $10
Day In The Jennifer w/ The Actors, Gothalo Radio, & Ol Dudebruuce, Elbo Room, 8 pm, $6
Riding Hood w/ Under The Aviary, Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$8
Moira Saw w/ Mic Ted, Stone Paloma, Hemlock Tavern, 5 pm, $5
Outdriver w/ Manager, Calendar Lost, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, tba
Sherwood w/ Seldom, Black Gold, & Remo Rinehaw Saxo, 7 pm, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

"Hip Hop Wednesdays" live hip-hop w/ rotating artists, El Rincon, 8 pm, $10
R.B.I. w/ Bulldevo, Happy Christopher, The Independent, 8 pm, $10
The Serve And Jennifer Tree featuring 2Mex, 5 Point, Club Six, 8 pm, tba

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Sola the Nina Jelly's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $16-$24 ●

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 1

EAST BAY

Club [illegible] w/ DJs spinning [illegible], 5 hip-hop, Beach and Bar, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] spinning reggae & world beat, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free
DJ Jerry Ross spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
DJ [illegible] [illegible], Jupiter, 9 pm, free
DJ [illegible] spinning, [illegible] Lounge, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free
[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] & R&B, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible] 5 top 40, [illegible], 10 pm, TBA
[illegible] [illegible] Uncle Joe, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] DJ [illegible] & host MC [illegible] spin [illegible] hip-hop, reggae, 5 soul, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free
[illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, & R&B, Club 21, 5 pm, $12-$15
Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible] spinning [illegible] hip-hop, & old-school, [illegible] Low, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1320.SF [illegible] spinning [illegible], The [illegible], 9 pm, $10
1984 DJs [illegible] 5 [illegible] new wave, Cat Club, 9 pm, free before 9:30 pm, $6
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] & guests [illegible], Triple Crown, 10 pm, $5
College [illegible] DJs [illegible] spin hip-hop, [illegible], R&B, & more, The Cellar, 10 pm, free
[illegible] Party [illegible], 10 pm, [illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] spinning [illegible] & underground hip-hop, [illegible] 5 pm, free
[illegible] rotating DJs, The [illegible], 10 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist.

[illegible] DJs spinning hip-hop, spinning funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, [illegible] & breaks, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] Thursdays w/ [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning reggae, Club [illegible], 9 pm-2 am, $5, free before 11 pm w/ RSVP
[illegible] DJ [illegible], [illegible] and guests spinning [illegible] Cumbia, Reggaeton, and Merengue, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

FRIDAY 2

EAST BAY

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] Friends spinning [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15
DJ [illegible]'s [illegible] [illegible] Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free
Friday [illegible] Reggae Party w/ [illegible] Sound, & guests spinning reggae, [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, free
Happy [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, rock, indie, 5 [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 9-10 pm, free
Latin Explosion DJ [illegible] spins [illegible], salsa, merengue, [illegible], Spanish pop, & house, Beach and Bar, 9 pm-2 am, $6-$15
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free
[illegible] DJ Joe [illegible] spins rock, Latin, & [illegible], Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
Retro-[illegible] [illegible] 80s pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 8 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning northern soul, [illegible], [illegible], new wave & rock 'n' roll, [illegible] 10 pm, free
[illegible] Fridays featuring DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], soca, samba, salsa, merengue, [illegible] reggae, [illegible], Arabic music, & more, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm.

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] DJs spin house music w/ Latin & [illegible] beats, [illegible], 10 pm, $5, free before 10:30 pm
[illegible] SupperClub, 10 pm, free
[illegible] DJs [illegible], & [illegible] spin [illegible], [illegible] beats, hip-hop, & [illegible]

Henry Savage performs at Mighty on 4/1

[illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $5 after 11 pm
DJ [illegible] [illegible], Make-Out Room, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] [illegible] 10 [illegible] B.A.S.S. Bay Area [illegible], 111 Minna Street Gallery, 9 pm, $5
Fridays at the [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & [illegible], [illegible], 6-9 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible] Oakland [illegible] & more, Mighty, 10 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], The [illegible] & more, [illegible] Nightclub, 10 pm, $15-$20
[illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, $5
[illegible] weekly [illegible] DJ [illegible] Music, 6-9 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible] live performances plus DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] rock, soul, French pop, & disco, The Knockout, 10 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] by [illegible], Underground SF, 5 pm, $5

SATURDAY 3

EAST BAY

All Productions & [illegible] DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop, [illegible], 10 pm, free
[illegible] Maxwell's DJs Jerry Ross & [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop, Maxwell's Lounge, 9 pm, $20
Country Saturdays [illegible] hip-hop & house at midnight, Club 21, [illegible] pm, $5
East Bay Honky Tonk DJ [illegible] classic country, bluegrass, [illegible], honky-tonk, blues, & more, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free
The First, Last And Only Berkeley "U.K. Funky" Night [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Jazz, 9 pm, $5
Magic [illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests host [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
Pop History 101 DJs spin pop hits from the [illegible], [illegible], 10 pm-2 am, free
[illegible] Science DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] beats, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] hip-hop R&B, [illegible] Lounge, 8-10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning the [illegible] Bay Area club hits, [illegible], 10 pm, free before 11 pm with voucher
DJ [illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, free
[illegible] Saturdays w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] rock, 5 mash-ups, [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], 9 pm, $5-$7
John '[illegible]' w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Nightclub, 10 pm, $15-$20
[illegible] featuring DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], Paradise Lounge, 10 pm, $7
[illegible] City DJs house party, [illegible] Lounge, 5 pm, $7 before 10 pm, $10
[illegible] [illegible] party for [illegible] and their friends w/ DJ [illegible] & guests spinning electro, indie rock, hip-hop, & '80s, Rickshaw Stop, 10 pm, $7
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul, jazz, [illegible], & more, The Hotel Room, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] Lounge DJs spinning [illegible], hip-hop, [illegible], & funky house, [illegible], 10 pm, $20
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Mighty, 10 pm, $17

SUNDAY 4

EAST BAY

King of Kings DJ [illegible] and guests spin [illegible] dancehall, [illegible] & [illegible] rock, [illegible], 9 pm, $15, ladies/students free before 11 pm
[illegible] Fair [illegible] featuring DJ [illegible] spinning rock 'n' roll and more, [illegible] Island, 3 pm, free
The Soul-[illegible] Show DJ [illegible] & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible] plus guests spinning house, tech, deep and soul, Triple Crown, 10 pm
[illegible] DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae & dancehall, Underground SF, 9 pm, free before 10:30 pm, $5
[illegible] DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin rare jazz, soul, & funk, [illegible], 5 pm, free

MONDAY 5

EAST BAY

The 3-Day Weekend w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop, and soul classics, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Mondays DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin reggae & dancehall, Kitty's, 9 pm, free
Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & electro, [illegible], 10 pm-2 am, free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft hits, [illegible] & soul, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible] spinning New Orleans R&B & 60s soul, [illegible] Cocktails, 9:30 pm, free
DJ [illegible] spinning classic soul, [illegible] & downtempo, [illegible], 9 pm, free
I [illegible] Monday DJ [illegible] & guests spin [illegible] from the '70s to today, Underground SF, 10 pm, free
Salsa [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], plus lessons, Cafe Cocomo, 7:30 pm, $5, lessons $10
[illegible] Jazz with [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $15
[illegible] Vinyl w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] of vinyl, [illegible] 9 pm-1 am, $2
[illegible] Sessions w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, [illegible], Latin and Afrobeat, [illegible], 10 pm, free

TUESDAY 6

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
DJ [illegible] spinning punk, Last Weekend Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, free
[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins soulful [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], 9 pm, free
[illegible] Science DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] beats, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free
Stay Punk! w/ DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible] rock, [illegible], [illegible] & metal, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJs spinning rock, soft hits, oldies, 5 soul, [illegible], 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] 5 [illegible] spinning [illegible] jazz and funk, rock, plus musical guests, Madrone Lounge, 5 pm, free
[illegible] hip-hop [illegible] party, Club [illegible], 9 pm, $5
DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] beats, underground hip-hop, & silky grooves, [illegible], 9 pm, free
[illegible] Jazz with [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $15
Pacific Standard Time hip-hop, & [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] plus live guests, [illegible], 10 pm, $5
The Punk [illegible] [illegible] plus DJ [illegible] 5 [illegible] punk rock at the [illegible] Lounge, The Knockout, 10 pm, $6

WEDNESDAY 7

EAST BAY

80s Night with DJ [illegible] DJ [illegible] spins songs from the 80s, [illegible] drink specials by [illegible], Cozy Lounge, 5 pm, free
Club [illegible] Latin cowboy night w/ [illegible] and [illegible], 9 pm, $6-$15
[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins soulful [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & guests spin reggae, 5 dancehall, Kingman's Ivy Room, 10 pm, free
[illegible] featuring DJ [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, free
[illegible] Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaeton, & more, plus salsa dance [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] DJ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin Brazilian, Latin, Afrobeat, & more, [illegible], 10 pm, free
[illegible] Wednesdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin hip-hop, top 40, reggae, R&B, & more, [illegible], 10 pm, free
DJ [illegible] [illegible] 5 reggaeton, Little Baobab, 9 pm, $3
[illegible] Rock Happy Hour The Knockout, 6-9 pm, free
[illegible] w/ rotating [illegible] DJs [illegible], 9 pm, free before 10 pm, $5 ●

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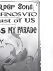

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SAVAGE LOVE

BOYFRIEND TROUBLES

A heartbroken escort and a young, gay virgin share their woes.

By Dan Savage

I am writing because I know my boyfriend reads your column religiously. I don't know what to do. My boyfriend of almost two years broke up with me yesterday over the fact that I used to be an escort. He went through my e-mails and saw that I was answering ads, putting ads up, sending photos. We had been planning a future together, talking about moving in, getting married, having kids, etc., and then this happened.

I know I either should've told him about my past or shouldn't have succumbed to temptation. I started doing this again a year ago because I got fired and couldn't find anything. I was so in love with this guy that I didn't mind staying at home waiting for him all day, doing everything and anything to make him happy. It took a toll on me, and I couldn't support myself. Then a friend recommended that I start escorting again. And then this guy e-mailed me saying he would give me $3,000 to sleep with him, and I couldn't say no.

What do I do? I can't eat, sleep, or do anything. All I want is to hold my boyfriend and be held. How do I make things better? I am disgusted with the person I am and feel dirty.

No One Real To Hold

I don't want to salt your wounds, but your boyfriend didn't find out that you "used to be an escort." He found out that you are an escort. Even those of us who believe that sex work should be legal, and that sex workers shouldn't be stigmatized, also believe that a sex worker's romantic partners have a right to know. Just as people have a general right to know when their partners are sleeping with others, sex workers' romantic partners have a right to know about the sex work — and consent to it — because it places them at heightened risk of sexually transmitted infections.

There's probably no salvaging this relationship. The scale of the betrayal is just too great, and your efforts to shift blame — it's your friend's fault for suggesting you get back into sex work, it was that guy's fault for offering you $3,000, it was your boyfriend's fault (!) for occupying all your time — demonstrate that you have yet to take responsibility for your actions. You would need to do that before your ex could begin to think about taking you back. Finally, if doing sex work makes you feel ashamed and dirty, *please stop doing sex work.*

What's the etiquette for having sex when you're a guest in another house? Friends spent the night and shared some passion. I don't have a problem with this. However, this was period-sex, and I was left with bloody sex-stained sheets. Am I wrong to be annoyed? Can I ask them to replace the sheets?

Hostess With The Messes

Your guests had to know — if your sheets were a bloody mess, so were your guests — and they should have offered to replace your sheets. You're right to be annoyed. If you believe your friends are selfish and inconsiderate, confront them, ask for replacements, and cultivate other friendships. But if you know your friends to be deeply sex negative, it's possible they were mortified by the mess and paralyzed by shame. If that's the case, let it slide, buy your own replacements, and cultivate other friendships.

The etiquette for having sex when you're a guest goes like this: Polite guests do not leave a bloody, spunky, or santorumy mess for their hosts to clean up. Desperately horny? Sounds like the perfect opportunity for an extended — and tidy — oral sex session. Want to fuck? Fuck on the desk, fuck standing up, fuck in the shower. If your partner is one of those only-in-bed, only-on-my-back types, lay a towel down on your host's sheets — or, better yet, a couple of your own T-shirts — and fuck away.

Thoughtful hosts purchase dark sheets and towels for guest suites. And if guests leave a towel on the floor of the bathroom in a neat little ball, toss that towel in the wash without inspecting. If your guests are courteous enough to strip the bed before they leave, those balled-up sheets go straight into the wash, too.

I'm a young-adult gay virgin. Recently, an incredibly sweet, intelligent guy expressed a desire to blow me. He also happens to be the hottest guy I've ever met in my life. I lusted after him for the better part of a year before I found out he was gay. I want to pursue this.

There are complications. Along with my first-time jitters, we will be working together all day, every day, through the fall. Which could be awkward if there's any awkwardness after the fact. Which brings me to my main worry: I'm not circumcised. I've always been a little insecure about it. The one friend I trust enough to ask about this honestly said that she would immediately abort oral if she realized a guy was uncut.

If I don't do this, I'll regret it for the rest of my life (he really is that hot), but my friend's opinion has me worried beyond reason. I'm at a loss, Dan. Please help?

Uncircumcised 'N' Completely Unexperienced Teen

You shouldn't put too much stock in one friend's opinion about uncut cock, UNCUT, particularly if that friend isn't all that experienced either and when that friend is a lady girl. Some young women are squeamish about oral generally and foreskins particularly, because they don't have much experience with cock.

Gay men are much less likely to be squeamish about uncut cock; indeed, lots of gay men prefer uncut cock. There are enough gay men out there with a fetish for foreskins to support a foreskin-specific porn genre for gay men. And even if this guy doesn't have a strong preference for uncut cock, it's highly unlikely that he'll be turned off by your clean, uncut cock.

As for any potential awkwardness after the fact: If the hottest guy you've ever swapped blowjobs with in your life is cold and distant, it might be because he doesn't want to get with you again. Tell him you intend to burn through any lingering feelings of awkwardness by being civil and polite to him and that you would appreciate the same from him.

Find my weekly podcast at TheStranger.com/savage. mail@savagelove.net

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LEGAL NOTICES

Fictitious Individual Name Statement File # 434774
The following individual is doing business as **MF/VE [illegible]**, Street Address: 1415 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Apt #2, Berkeley, CA 94709. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 1415 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Apt #2, Berkeley, CA 94709. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on January 21, 2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/1/2010.
MF/VE [illegible]
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER RG10500503
Alameda County Superior Court, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner DANIEL JASON PLISETZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing name as follows: Present Name: DANIEL JASON PLISETZ to Proposed Name SAMANTHA NICOLE BROWN. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING JUNE 18, 2010 at 11:00 A.M. at Dept. 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13TH St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: March 22, 2010. Signed: Jon R. Rolefson, Judge of the Superior Court
3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 4[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Tree Bone Cycles**, Street Address: [illegible] Brandon Street, Oakland, CA 94611. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Brandon Street, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on [illegible]. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/24/2010.
Tree Bone Cycles
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 434802
The following individual is doing business as **Feng Shui Fix**, Street Address: 1523 Lafayette St., Apt B, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: Jennifer [illegible], 1523 Lafayette St., Apt B, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/17/2010.
Feng Shui Fix
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/1/2010

Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda Case No. RG[illegible]
In the Matter of the Petition of Hal Brody to Have the Standing of East Bay Express as a Newspaper of General Circulation Ascertained and Established. PETITION TO ASCERTAIN AND ESTABLISH STANDING AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION [Gov. Code § 6000] ... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 5/17/10 at 9:00am or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in Department 31 of this court, located on the [illegible] Post Office Building, 200 13th Street between Alice and Harrison, Oakland, California 94612, following petition to ascertain and establish the Standing of the East Bay Express to be a newspaper of general circulation, as defined in Section 6000 of the Government Code for Alameda County, California, generally as well as for the specific cities of Alameda, Albany, Oakland, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, Pleasanton, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo above. 3/19/2010. Signed: [illegible], Attorney for Petitioner: Hal Brody
3/31/2010 & 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Foundation**, Street Address: [illegible] Ave, Berkeley, CA 94[illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Foundation, [illegible] University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/23/2010.
[illegible] Foundation
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435400
The following individual is doing business as **TableTopics, Inc.**, Street Address: 2001 7th St., Suite E, Berkeley, CA 94710. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: TableTopics, Inc., 2001 7th St., Suite E, Berkeley, CA 94710. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/1/04. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/24/2010.
TableTopics, Inc.
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER RG[illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner DEBRA ANN [illegible] filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: DEBRA ANN [illegible] to Proposed Name: DEBRA ANN [illegible]. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: APRIL 2, 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13th St., [illegible], CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County. Dated: December 11, 2009. Signed: [illegible], Judge of the Superior Court.
3/10, 3/17, 3/24/2010

Crown Castle USA, Inc. is proposing to modify the [illegible] at the following site: Castro Valley [illegible] Ave in Castro Valley, Alameda Co. Crown invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture, that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Specific information regarding the project is available for viewing. Please submit comments to Ben Straut at 2000 Corporate Drive in Canonsburg, PA 15317 or by calling 724-416-2000 during normal business hours. Comments must be received by April 28, 2010
3/31 & 4/7/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER RG[illegible]
Alameda County Superior Court, Rene C. Davidson Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland CA 94612. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner SARA BOETTIGER GUEDE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: SARA BOETTIGER GUEDE to Proposed Name: SARA [illegible] BOETTIGER. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: MAY 28, 2010, at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31, at U.S. Post Office Building, 201 13TH St., 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: East Bay Express, Alameda County, California. Dated: Feb 24, 2010. Signed: Jon R. Rolefson, Judge of the Superior Court.
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435262
The following individual is doing business as **Realty [illegible] Properties**, Street Address: 4003 [illegible], Dublin, CA 94568. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Properties, Inc, 4003 [illegible], Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/26/2010.
Realty [illegible] Properties
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central Alameda**, Street Address: [illegible] Street, Suite 902, [illegible], CA 94612. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 1804 Franklin Street, Suite 902, Oakland, CA 94612. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 11/11/2009. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/2/2010.
Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central Alameda
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435003
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538. Mailing Address: [illegible] Oakland, CA 94621, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/2/2010.
[illegible]
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435407
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/26/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/26/2010.
[illegible]
3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435030
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/15/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 2/22/2010.
[illegible]
3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435290
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible], CA 94530, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible]. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 1/15/2008. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/22/2010.
[illegible]
3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 4354[illegible]
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible] Planning**, Street Address: [illegible], Oakland, CA [illegible]. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owners: [illegible]. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/12/2010.
[illegible] Planning
3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435504
The following individual is doing business as **oh boy, oh boy!**, Street Address: 1445 Caroline St., Suite C, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: William [illegible], 1445 Caroline St., Suite C, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/18/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/4/2010.
oh boy, oh boy!
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435085
The following individual is doing business as **Emergency Fire Properties**, Street Address: 1801 Shoreline Dr. #329, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], 1801 Shoreline Drive #329, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible].
Emergency Fire Properties
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 433186
The following individual is doing business as **Aung & Associates**, Street Address: [illegible] Telegraph Ave, Suite 201, Oakland, CA 94609. Mailing Address: Same as above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] INC., [illegible] Telegraph Ave, Suite 201, Oakland, CA 94609. The business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 2/8/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/1/2010.
Aung & Associates
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 408777
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] St., Oakland, CA 94[illegible]. Mailing Address: [illegible] Ave, Oakland, CA 94[illegible], is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Alameda, CA [illegible]. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 12/24/2008. This business is conducted by an Individual. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on [illegible].
[illegible]
3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435044
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Ave. #12[illegible], Oakland, CA 94611. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] LLC, [illegible] Ave., Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/11/2010.
[illegible]
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 436511
The following individual is doing business as **J. Boyd [illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible], Oakland, CA 94608. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible] Boyd, [illegible] St., Oakland, CA 94608. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on 3/17/2010. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/17/2010.
J. Boyd [illegible]
3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 435620
The following individual is doing business as **Joy [illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94709. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/10/2010.
Joy [illegible]
3/24, 3/24, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 436110
The following individual is doing business as **RT Consultants**, Street Address: [illegible], Oakland, CA 94612. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], [illegible] Drive, [illegible], CA 94[illegible]. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/11/2010.
RT Consultants
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Fictitious Business Name Statement File # 436196
The following individual is doing business as **[illegible]**, Street Address: [illegible] Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. Mailing Address: Same As Above, is hereby registered by the following owner: [illegible], Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on N/A. This Statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on 3/12/2010.
[illegible]
3/24, 3/31, 4/7, 4/14/2010

Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda

In the Matter of the Petition of Hal Brody to Have the Standing of East Bay Express as a Newspaper of General Circulation Ascertained and Established

Case No. [illegible]

MOTION TO AMEND JUDGMENT ASCERTAINING AND ESTABLISHING STANDING AS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION Gov. Code §§ 6000, 6020, 6021, 6024

Judge Hon. [illegible]

Dept. 31

[illegible] Alameda County, March 18, 2010 [illegible] Superior Court by [illegible], Deputy

Petitioner, Hal Brody, alleges:

1. Petitioner is an independent owner and manager of the [illegible] [illegible] the East Bay Express ("the newspaper").
2. By judgment filed June 12, 2008, the East Bay Express was ascertained and established to be a newspaper of general circulation as defined in Section 6000 of the Government Code.
3. At that time, the [illegible] was published in the City of Emeryville, Alameda County, California for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character.
4. In May 2009, the business office of the [illegible] was [illegible] to the city of Oakland, within the same county of Alameda, California, where the [illegible] continues to be published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character.
5. The petition business address of the [illegible] was 1335 Stanford Ave., Suite 100, Emeryville, California, 94608 and this address was the only principal office of publication for the [illegible] at the time the judgment was made. The current business address of the [illegible] is 1320 3rd Street, Oakland, CA 94607 and this [illegible] is now the only principal office of publication for the newspaper.
6. The [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] and for more than three years preceding the filing of this motion, the [illegible] has [illegible] under the name East Bay Express, and has been [illegible] and published, that is, issued and sold or distributed regularly on every Wednesday at [illegible] from the [illegible] business [illegible] of paragraph 5.
7. The [illegible] has [illegible] minimum coverage of local news and [illegible] of a general [illegible] of not less than 25 percent of its total [illegible] during each year of the three-year period preceding the filing of this motion.
8. The newspaper continues to have a substantial weekly distribution of 50,000 copies that are distributed primarily free of charge through more than [illegible] throughout Alameda County, California, [illegible] cities of Alameda, Albany, Oakland, Berkeley, Castro Valley, [illegible], Emeryville, Fremont, [illegible] Oakland, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo.
9. The [illegible] of paying subscribers, and [illegible] throughout Alameda County including the cities listed above in paragraph 8.

WHEREFORE, petitioner prays for an amended judgment ascertaining and [illegible] East Bay Express as a [illegible] newspaper of general circulation [illegible] for Alameda County, California, generally, as well as for the specific cities of Alameda, Albany, Oakland, Berkeley, Castro Valley, [illegible], Emeryville, Fremont, [illegible], Oakland, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo.

Dated: 3/5/2010

Signed: [illegible], Attorney for Petitioner: Hal Brody

VERIFICATION

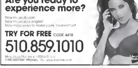
I, Hal Brody, am the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] have read the foregoing petition and know the contents thereof. The same is true to my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: 3/5/2010

Signed: Hal Brody, Petitioner, East Bay Express, Independent Owner and Manager

3/31 and 4/7/2010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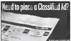
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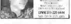
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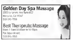
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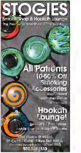
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